

**BRIGHT U3A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Bright Senior Citizens Centre**  
**Friday 27 January 2023**

Meeting opened at 10.30 am.

**Present:** 60 as per sign on sheets.

**Apologies:** R Ward, Y Ward, C Gregory, B Lambert, I Lukey, S McKinlay, F Walsh, R Kennedy, K Tucker, R Reedy.

Peter Hopper, as President of Senior Citizens, was thanked for allowing U3A to use the venue today before arrangements are finalised. Peter responded and welcomed the guests. 8 February is first meeting of Community Asset Committee.

**Minutes of last AGM:** Available for perusal. Moved that minutes be accepted: H Brecknell, seconded. R Withers.

**REPORTS:**

**President:**

- Remembered with respect and affection members lost during the year - Miffy Robb, Bill Brooks, Colin Armstrong, John Gilmour and Derrick Rolland.
- Member numbers have increased from 137 during Covid, to 213 at end of last year. Looks promising for the future.
- Development of Social Committee has been a great step forward. Activities of Social Committee were mentioned leading up to bowls and golf in the future. Members were asked to support these activities.
- A new development was broadband through Be Connected – introducing people to digital devices and their use. Classes were well attended, including general public, causing greater confidence in use of digital technology. Classes will be continuing into the future and members are encouraged to attend.
- Keith Ashfold started Philosophy.
- Roy Kennedy offering Irish Language course.
- Bright is forging a closer association with Myrtleford U3A – members can become associate members for \$10. Meetings have been held so that expertise can be shared, including with Mt Beauty U3A. Members were encouraged to support the neighbouring branches to expand opportunities.
- Main event this year is joining up with Bright Senior Citizens, which has very good facilities, giving us limitless opportunities. We now have space to offer more activities. Community Asset Committee has 6 members (two from U3A, two from Senior Citizens, one from Council and a community member). First meeting on February 8 will work out responsibilities for each member group, and CAC will handle some of the finances. When details are finalised, members will be informed. Until finalisation, activities will continue at the original venue. There will be a working bee to clear out unwanted items from our old HQ, and the Senior Citizens building. Help would be appreciated.
- Marianne thanked members, convenors and committee for their work.
- Tutor Excellence Awards last year – Sue van Winden was nominated and awarded as one of only eight in Victoria. Sue was invited up and Award made and citation read out.
- Flowers were presented to Kim Robinson, retiring secretary.
- A general meeting to follow.

**Treasurer:** Account holds \$21,520.72. Income for year \$10,004.72, expenditure \$10,971.14, so Income and Expenses matched. Be Connected grant was all spent last year. Two tablets and a laptop have been bought. Moved A Borschman that treasurer's report be accepted, seconded H Carlson.

**Membership:** 115 financial members at the moment with more this week. Prospective members have until mid-February to become financial members. After this date, non-financial members will have their

details removed. Enrolment help is available. Direct debits should be clearly marked with member's name and membership number in reference section of payment.

Thanks to Bushwalkers for catering and clearing up at the AGM.

**Convenor Coordinator:** Linda has found the task quite easy. Ideas for new courses are welcome. Convenors are encouraged to use the UMAS system, and were invited to run through it with Linda after the meeting. Bridge: has been asked for – but as Myrtleford has a group and the Senior Citizens have one, Linda will need to know if a new group is needed, and a convenor will be required.

### **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE:**

Returning officer Peter Lukey took the chair. Thanked the committee during the year.

President: Marianne Dredge nominated by R Ward seconded M Roberts. Accepted.  
Vice Pres: Michael Roberts nominated by R Cirulis seconded M Dredge. Accepted  
Treasurer: Robyn Cirulis nominated by M Roberts seconded M Dredge  
Secretary:  
Committee: Roy Ward nominated M Dredge seconded M Roberts. Accepted  
Kevin Hancock nominated by H Brecknell seconded R Milne. Accepted  
Helen Brecknell webmaster/newsletter nominated K Robinson seconded K Hancock.  
Accepted.  
Linda Hayes nominated by R Cirulis, seconded M Roberts. Accepted  
Ron Milne nominated by K Hancock seconded H Brecknell. Accepted  
Andrew Bird nominated by M Dredge seconded M Roberts. Accepted

### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

Welcome to the new committee. It is a legal requirement that an organisation must have a Secretary within two weeks of AGM.

Meeting closed at 10.55 am.

### **General meeting:**

Roy Kennedy's proposal for **Irish language course**. Irish has no words for yes or no! Sentences start with verbs and there are 7 verbs for "to be". Beginner textbook is available. Roy is secretary of Irish Language Association in Australia. Classes on Thursdays 1 pm, starting March 3. Roy will contact enrollees in mid-February to discuss the course. Course will be on website by next week. Will start with copies of lessons so text doesn't need to be bought initially. Brett Lidbury is keen to see languages grow and will assist Roy.

Jan Smith of **Social Committee** encouraged others to join her. Called for feedback on other ideas, spoke of Lawn Bowls with BBQ, 17 Feb Friday 5 pm for 3 hours. Later on croquet. Nine Hole Golf Day for those wanting to play but not compete, fees as per golf club. Check out the web site.

Keith Ashfold invited members to join the **Philosophy** course. It is an alive subject and contemporary and we are all philosophers as it's about beliefs. Also, about acquisition of knowledge and how to utilise in our lives. It is rewarding and life changing. Unlocks understanding. All views respected. Leaflets available.

Dennis Lambert gave update on **Sustainable Upper Ovens**. There will be a meeting with NE Water re reducing carbon footprint on delivering water. Members are invited to join the meeting on 4 Feb at

Brewery. On 15 Feb and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed thereafter, community energy group meets at Anglican Hall. Discussion on community battery study. Discussion on providing low cost solar to community housing by May or June. 30 April speaker on making your home more comfortable. All on Sustainable Upper Ovens website. Community Garden is looking for volunteers and U3A could make this an activity as they are looking for new members. Plasticwise is doing great work around town. Monthly market has mug library; Sixpence coffee and Brewery support this. Any members interested in these activities? These dates will go in next U3A newsletter.

Helen and Linda waiting to provide **help with enrolments** and other questions.

Sandra More spoke on behalf of those who didn't come to the meeting. These people don't own any digital devices. Sandra recognises that these people have been long term members and need a new pathway to **permit these people to stay involved**. Marianne responded that 3 years ago the UMAS enrolment system was devised by U3A network in Victoria – so members can be responsible for their own membership.

System has had glitches which have been referred to experts. Committee wanted to take all membership with us into the new system. Previous system was very messy and disorganised, and wasn't secure or up to date. Every coffee morning, help is offered to those who need it. Info sessions have also been run. Newsletter is always left in hard copy at the Library. Members need to tell their friends that this help is available. Not a lot of private information is held for security reasons, but members still need to be contactable. U3A won't be going back to the old system, but help is always available. Suggestion that all newsletters plus other information (eg Myrtleford U3A timetable) go into the Library along with the newsletters. Information is also at noticeboard on side of IGA. Suggestion that Observer be used for disseminating info. Eg a regular column. Sandra to provide names of people in difficulties so they can be approached.

Olivia Stapleton mentioned that **Alpine Voices** starting again next Wednesday at U3A premises. Invited new members, words and music provided for a fun activity.

Marianne was thanked by Mike Smith for doing a good job.