

President's Report U3A Myrtleford and District Inc.

AGM 3 December 2020

Dear members

It is with great pride that I present my third report as the President of U3A Myrtleford and District Inc. although this year has been a year like no other.

The year 2020 is already historic and I would be sure that we will now refer to events in our lives as either pre COVID-19 or post COVID-19. I can already hear comments like, 'I used to do that before COVID' or 'now that COVID has passed we do things differently'.

As a result of all of the restrictions due to the virus we have had a very different year – all courses stopped in March and we have very few to offer now.

It is our hope that we will have a full and varied program to offer all of our members for 2021.

The bright spot for the year for our U3A was the completion of the book, *For A Better Life*.

This was a 2-year project, starting with applying for a grant to the production of a book, documenting the Italian migration to Myrtleford. The book was completed in September and to date we have sold around 600 copies and we have done all of this without an official launch. If La Fiera is able to be organised in 2021 we will launch the book then.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the team that worked so hard on the book and produced something that we can all be proud of. The members of the team are:

Chris McCracken, Joy Phillips, Roy Ward, Caroline Pizzey, Coral Love, Yvonne Tabalotny, Judy Pitts, Philippa Cartwright and Jan Mock.

From the profits of the book, we are asking our members for ideas as to how we can use the money. The committee has spoken about contributing something of worth and longevity to the Myrtleford community that we, all as members, can be proud of. The only problem is we do not know what this contribution is but the good news is we do not have to decide immediately. If you have any ideas please let the committee know.

Lastly, I would like to thank the committee for continuing to work for the betterment of our U3A under very difficult conditions this year.

As with any committee, people change positions and some members leave to make way for new members to join.

I would like to thank Pam Hamilton and Mike McGurgan for their contributions to the committee. Pam has been a committee member for 2 years. She has led Finska for all of that time and has been our caterer for any events we were able to hold.

Mike has been on the committee for 1 year and always puts his hand up to tutor Tai Chi and Alexander Technique courses. We look forward to both Pam and Mike continuing to be U3A members and contributing wherever they are able.

In addition to these changes and with the belief that succession planning is vital to the good health of an organisation like our U3A, I am stepping down as President. It has been an honour to be the first president of the U3A Myrtleford and District Inc. Thank you all for giving me this opportunity, however I do plan to continue to work to ensure our U3A continues to grow and meet our members' needs. Lastly, I would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and may 2021 be a safer and healthier year for us all.

Nino Mautone

(President, U3A Myrtleford and District Inc.)