



MYRTLEFORD AND DISTRICT
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

AGM, 10 November, 2023

President's Report

Welcome everyone to this our 6th Annual General Meeting

We have had a very good year with lots of activities and increased membership.

Our membership as of 30 October stands at:

177 full members

25 Associates

2 Hon tutors

1 Hon members making 205 altogether.

Over the year we have conducted 37 different activities with 25 individual tutors.

There have been

16 activities that have run every week for the year

21 activities that have run for a term, part of a term or a single event.

This year for Seniors Month, we hosted a brunch at Alpine Gate, a lunch/movie session in Bright and we were fortunate to have Judy Brewer as our guest speaker, which we opened up to the general public.

We are always interested to know what you would like to have as activities so if you have a suggestion, please let us know.

Sales from our book, "For A Better Life" are going along slowly. We thank Myrtleford Newsagency and the Visitor Information Centre for continuing to carry our book. We have sold over 1200 copies.

The committee with guidance from a sub-committee, have decided to use the money from our book sales to develop a project that will further tell the story of migration to Myrtleford and District starting with the gold rush.

This project will feature mosaics, made of course by the Crack Pots. Kerry Hansen, one of our members, designed the art work for the mosaics. An installation is to be made by our local blacksmith, Simon Pankhurst, depicting a ship, which symbolizes the means by which most of our migrants arrived in Australia before making their way to Myrtleford.

This whole project is to be installed onto the exterior walls of the Anglican Church Hall, facing into the Piazza.

The project is nearing completion and we will organise a launch and of course you will all be invited.

We hope that you the members will be proud of this feature within the town and equally Myrtleford will be proud of it as well. It will be an added feature to all of the other beautiful mosaics in the town.

Earlier in the year our committee met with U3A committees from Bright and Mount Beauty. We are looking for opportunities to support each other. Our next meeting of the combined U3As is to be in Mount Beauty.

Looking ahead to 2024 we see many opportunities for our U3A to be involved with Judy Brewer and her Care Farm. I believe only our imaginations will hold

us back. I cannot think of a better project to contribute to; to help people with a disability, people who are carers and others who just need a break.

I have a few thank yous:

We have been helped considerably by the following:

Alpine Shire Council for the use of the Myrtleford Senior Citizens Centre Club Savoy for allowing us to hold activities here and for including us as one of their community organisations for which they give a donation.

Myrtleford Library for allowing us to use their facilities, displaying our newsletter and generally encouraging people to join us.

Myrtleford P-12 College, Myrtleford Lawn Tennis Club and Myrtleford Bowls Club for allowing us to use their facilities.

All of these organisations have been very helpful and always strive to accommodate us. Many U3A groups have massive accommodation problems – we are very fortunate that the Myrtleford community has looked after us so well.

Tutors are an integral part of our organisation – in fact if we did not have them we would not have a U3A. Thank you tutors for what you do; you do make a difference.

I would also like to thank you the members – without you we would not exist. Your commitment to the various activities that we offer is very pleasing to see and we acknowledge that it is so important for us to socialize and be both physically and mentally active.

Lastly I would like to thank the committee who work very hard all year to run this organisation seamlessly.

A special thank you to Gabriella Bettio, who is standing down this year. Thanks Gabriella for your work with us over the past 3 years.

I am also standing down from being President. I am very proud of what this U3A has achieved in only 6 short years, remembering we were severely restricted for 2 of those years due to the pandemic. I wish the incoming President all the best and I look forward to contributing on the committee going forward.

We all look forward to our U3A continuing to grow and provide social contact as well as physical and mental stimulation. We as an organisation, working together, can do all of this.

Nino Mautone.

November 2023