



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT OCTOBER 2021**

We had hoped to be fully operational at this time in October 2021, but Covid 19 has meant that our main campus building is currently closed as a result of current health orders, Zoom courses are continuing, but face to face classes cannot proceed at present.

### **COURSES AND ACTIVITIES 2021**

During 2021, we advertised more than 140 courses in total, and about 45 of them were offered by Zoom or Skype. Glen Eira U3A acquired four Zoom licences which were shared between tutors offering courses by Zoom. In addition, some tutors used their own Zoom licences.

### **FEES FOR 2021**

During 2020 we were locked down for much of the year. In recognition of this, at the AGM in 2021, the membership fee was reduced from the previous \$60 to \$50 for 2021. However additional fees of \$10 were introduced for courses run at paid venues.

### **FACILITIES USED BY GLEN EIRA U3A**

Apart from our main campus building, we have appreciated the ability to use senior citizens centres managed by the Glen Eira Council. This includes:

- Caulfield Senior Citizens Centre, and
- Ormond Senior Citizens Centre.

We also used some Council facilities for which we paid fees:

- Carnegie Community Centre, and
- Duncan McKinnon Function Room.

We also offered courses or activities at the following venues:

- Dynamite Dance Studio,
- Caulfield Park Sports Club,
- Elsternwick Croquet Club, and
- Elwood Bowl Club.

### **TECHNOLOGY UPDATE**

For some years now, Glen Eira U3A has operated using the UMAS IT system which is supported by U3A Network Victoria.

Late in 2020, 'UMAS for members' was released. This change allowed for members to more easily access UMAS via computers, tablets and smart phones.

At the AGM in 2020, a lot of effort went into explaining the new UMAS arrangements. At the time of the November enrolments, lockdown meant that most enrolments had to be done online, and those who would previously have sought assisted enrolment had to seek volunteer help by phone to enrol.

Glen Eira U3A was the first in Victoria to implement the 'UMAS for members' change, but unfortunately there was an initial bug which meant that invoices were not created as usual for some members. The problem was quickly resolved, but it meant that some members were not advised of their fees, and payments were delayed, and had to be actioned through other means. This added a lot of work for our Treasurer and our office volunteers to collect outstanding fees.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Glen Eira U3A had about 1200 members in 2020, but the Covid 19 pandemic limited the range of activities and courses that we could offer in 2021. Over the course of 2021 we continued to recruit new members and were pleased to find that our membership was more than 970 by the year end.

We were very grateful to the many tutors who took up the challenge of learning to deliver courses by Zoom in 2021.

We are very hopeful that 2022 will be a better year that will allow us to resume many of our face-to-face courses and activities, as well as continue with Zoom.

## **KEEPING MEMBERS COVID SAFE**

When we opened in 2021, we introduced a range of measures to ensure that members remained Covid safe. David Collier ensured that our main campus building was regularly checked and made safe. This included regular cleaning, new procedures and the use of mask when required and the introduction of QR codes.

Whenever, the Victorian government health orders changed, we began sending mailchimp advice to ensure that members were aware of the changing requirements.

## **COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT**

During 2021, our committee of management has met either in person or via Zoom. Apart from those elected at the AGM, we were subsequently joined by one additional member.

<b>Position/Role</b>	<b>Name</b>
President	Del Stitz
Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	David Collier
Treasurer	Jo Brown
Ordinary Member and Course Coordinator	Chris Perera
Ordinary member	Garry Fabian
Ordinary member	Hilary Friedland
Ordinary member	Ditta Libson
Ordinary member	Russell Stern
Ordinary member	Martin Verhoeven
Ordinary member	Scott Gordon

All committee members participated in opening or closing the building as required.

In addition to the key named office bearers, members accepted a number of specific roles, including:

- Chris Perera as course coordinator
- Hilary Friedland as catering and office supplies organiser
- Russell Stern organised the opening and closing roster

In addition, members of the committee have undertaken a range of projects during 2021, including:

1. Jo Brown organised for plumbing work to solve the problem with water leaking into the art room storeroom.
2. Martin Verhoeven organised to update our fire protection services.
3. Scott organised for the installation of an automated watering system for the garden.
4. Scott Gordon worked with office volunteers to move our hosting service from Siteground in Singapore to their Australian Data Centre.
5. Our previous committee member, Merv Barnett, organised to refit the computer room and equip it to be able to offer a full range of courses, thereby giving us an additional classroom.

## **TUTORS**

Glen Eira U3A has more than 100 tutors. During 2021 they have had to be very flexible as Covid restrictions kept changing and interfering with their ability to offer face-to-face classes. We have had to rely more on tutors to stay in touch with their students as requirements changed.

The use of Zoom has been very important in being able to offer ongoing programs to our members during lockdown periods.

## **GARDEN VOLUNTEERS**

We are very grateful to Stan Hill who has coordinated regular work on our garden. A range of other volunteers have helped at regular working bees.

Stan worked with Scott to commission the design of a watering system for the garden. This will allow better maintenance, particularly during hot weather using the water from the water tank.

## **OFFICE VOLUNTEERS**

During 2021 we have been very grateful for the contribution of Rachel van Run who has coordinated office support for both the reception and back office operations.

Rachel has coordinated a large number of volunteers to support our members by phone, email and in person.

We acknowledge the major contribution over many years from Saul Dishon who has supported our system and computers. Both Saul and David Bloom have recently updated our UMAS version.

## **FACEBOOK**

For the first time this year, we established a Facebook page for Glen Eira U3A members. Rachel and other volunteers have managed the page.

## **WEBSITE**

Del Stitz has continued to manage changes to the website to keep members up to date.

## **NEWSLETTER**

We thank Heather Hudson for her work producing our Newsletter to keep members advised. We know how much our members have appreciated hearing about the background and involvement of our members.

## **PREPARING FOR 2022**

We are hoping that 2022 will be a better year with few lockdowns. We will continue to offer both face-to-face classes, as well as extensive use of Zoom and Skype.

## **DEL STITZ**

## **PRESIDENT**

## **OCTOBER 2021**