



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Glen Eira U3A

20 October 2022

Commencing 2pm

PRESENT: 32 members were recorded

WELCOME TO COUNTRY:

We acknowledge the Boonwurrung/Bunurong and Wurrundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin Nation as Traditional Owners and Custodians, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and uphold Traditional Owner's continuing relationship to the land and waterways.

WELCOME: David Collier welcomed members and invited the guest speaker to address the meeting.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Megan Papworth, Director of Performance at McKinnon Secondary College, spoke about the role of music and memory in relation to older people.

She played a video to demonstrate the role of music and singing as a way of connecting with loved ones.

She advocated:

- Think about your loved one's preferences
- Set the mood
- Avoid overstimulation
- Encourage movement
- Sing along
- Pay attention to your loved one's responses.

Megan demonstrated how to create a play list using YouTube or Spotify.

Loved ones may respond to music they experienced at key life points, eg courtship, wedding anniversary, birth, nursery rhymes.

A sheet of suggestions was circulated to members.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM:

Del Stitz reported that the previous AGM was held on 21 October 2021 by Zoom, because of Covid. At that time 46 members were present and Glen Eira U3A had 970 members. The financial report indicated a small profit for the year, as well as reserve funds of \$120,000 from the building funds.

Major initiatives during the year included Covid, Plumbing, Fire Safety and Computer Room refurbishment.

The election for committee members resulted in the following:

- President: David Collier
- Secretary: Del Stitz
- Treasurer: Jo Brown
- Course coordinator: Chris Perera
- Ordinary members:
 - Russell Stern
 - Garry Fabian
 - Hilary Friedland
 - Martin Verhoeven
 - Scott Gordon
 - Wendy Chandler
 - Ditta Lisbon
 - Kerry Finn

Subsequently Ditta Lisbon passed away, and Kerry Finn left part way through the year.

All other members attended regularly.

Acceptance of the minutes was moved by David Collier and seconded by Martin Verhoeven

FINANCIAL REPORT:

A copy of the financial report had been placed on the website.

Jo Brown distributed copies of the financial report and indicated that expenses were approximately \$54,000, membership fees of \$50 were collected as income of \$50,000, leaving an operating loss of about \$9,700. Reserve funds of about \$117,000 remained.

Jo noted that the committee will recommend a fee of \$60 for 2023.

Acceptance of the financial report was moved by Jo Brown and seconded by Arlene Medieros.

One member asked why office and other supplies had increased. It was explained that it included reimbursement for Zoom licenses and Mailchimp costs.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The 2022 year started with a renewed sense of hope that we would be less interrupted by lockdowns and other Covid related issues. In the previous year several important modifications to the functioning of the Glen Eira U3A had taken place, drawing down on some of our accumulated funds to achieve these approved developments. These were described in 2021's annual President's report.

As a new incumbent to the office of President, the President wanted to create a collegial sense of 'belonging' to the U3A. To that end he had managed to visit most of the classes throughout the year and was delighted to be able to report that members are enjoying the courses they attend and the friendships they make. The greatest strength of any U3A is the membership and the support they all bring to our site.

The membership fees for 2022 were kept at previous levels, despite knowing that both numbers would be down, and costs would be increasing. Currently the Glen Eira U3A has 997 active members – well down from previous years and very reflective of the community's concerns about health and covid safe practice. The Committee was looking forward to the numbers increasing as enrolments were coming up. Nonetheless the Committee has recommended an increase in the fees for membership for 2023. This will build the necessary reserves back to the level desired by the Committee to ensure safe and continued operations. The Glen Eira U3A is self-supporting, and funding grants this year are not easy to come by, Covid has made it hard for everyone. In the light of these facts, the committee had settled on a prudent and conservative approach so that should we face an unexpected demand on funds we can be sure to have sufficient to meet needs. The Committee has also re-introduced a budget to make the management of our expenditure well controlled.

The President reported on the make-up our Glen Eira U3A, as this should help inform the committee about future needs. Nearly two thirds

of members are women, and twenty seven percent are over the age of 80. This suggests that we should make a stronger effort to provide opportunities for members to socialise before or after classes. He was delighted with the very positive reactions to the BBQ we held during the Open Day, and so the committee will be supporting a moving lunch once every three weeks; starting on a Monday, then the next would be on a Tuesday and so on. It is our hope members will support this social opportunity to bring us together now that Covid allows.

The U3A is a world-wide network of learning groups aimed at encouraging older people to share their knowledge, skills, and interests in a friendly environment. There are no exams and no homework, just regular sessions, or study groups. It's learning for fun, not with the aim of gaining qualifications and we must never lose sight of these aims. There should be no distinction between those who have come to learn, to be stimulated by the sharing of knowledge, ideas and activities; and those who have come to provide and share their knowledge and skills. This is why people are Members of the Glen Eira U3A, not simply attendees of this or that course.

Our tutors do a superb job of putting together the courses we attend, without them the U3A movement cannot function obviously. He urged any of you who are members who think they have some interest or activity to share with others, to consider offering to be a tutor. In giving of your own time and knowledge, he assured members that they will also be learning and taking out just as much as you are contributing.

Underpinning this ethos has been a wonderful group of volunteers who support the day-to-day activities of the Glen Eira U3A. It has been a joy this year to see the numbers of volunteers increase and share the workload. The President did not intend to single people out, but everyone knows that their contribution is given freely and received gratefully. You are a wonderful bunch of people to be with, to work alongside and who fully represent the beliefs of the U3A.

He acknowledged the Committee which he had the privilege of Chairing this year. Each of you contributes cheerfully and he always look forward to the meetings and the ways in which the Glen Eira steadily improves in its way of operating.

The President made some particular thank-you's. During the year, we lost the wonderful contribution made by Ditta Libson, when she passed away. It was a loss he particularly felt as she above all others made him

feel so welcome when he joined and started giving history sessions. He quickly realised that Ditta had the ability to make everyone feel welcomed and important in her life. He honoured her memory.

During the year Kerry Finn stepped down from the Committee and the President thanked her for the valuable work she carried on with the newsletter.

As the term of this Committee comes to an end, he reported that Jo Brown, our Treasurer; Chris Perara our Course Co-Ordinator; Russell Stern; and Gary Fabian, Committee Members are all stepping down. He thanked all equally, you have been generous colleagues on the committee and the office holders: Jo as Treasurer and Chris as Course Co-Ordinator have been so conscientious and so thorough in their efforts that much of the success this year is a reflection of your work. We will miss all of you.

Last he thanked Del as Secretary and the rest of the committee who are standing for office again for all your efforts this year. He reported on how much he appreciated your support and kindness, and your contribution to this U3A.

Thank you everyone and remember that learning never stops – keeping our minds and bodies active; keeping us young – at heart anyway.

David Collier moved that his report be accepted and seconded by Martin Verhoeven.

David proposed that the fee for 2023 be set as \$60. This was seconded by Russell Stern and accepted.

ELECTIONS:

The nominations received were matched by the positions available. The number of ordinary members of the committee was set as seven.

The election resulted in:

- President: David Collier
- Secretary: Del Stitz
- Treasurer: Tony Todd

Ordinary Members:

- Course coordinator: Anne-Margaret Healy
- Russell Stern

- Hilary Friedland
- Martin Verhoeven
- Scott Gordon
- Wendy Chandler
- Arlene Medeiros

Tony Todd was welcomed as Treasurer and invited to outline his experience as an accountant and consultant in Britain and the USA.

David Collier moved acceptance of the committee members and seconded by Scott Gordon.

David thanked Garry Fabian for his major contribution to Glen Eira U3A over many years; and acknowledged the contribution of Jo Brown and Chris Perera.

REPORT ON COURSE PLANNING

Del Stitz represented our course coordinator Chris Perera. Chris has been continuing work to set up the courses for 2023, with assistance from Anne-Margaret Healy, who will assume the role in future. It is expected there will be about 100 courses in 2023.

Del encouraged members to enroll online if possible. The first stage of enrolment on 16 to 18 November is designed to give priority to existing members to enrol in popular courses. Further enrolment opportunities will apply from 23 November.

We are offering lessons on 25 and 26 October to demonstrate how easy it is to enrol online.

At the start of 2022, we did have a lot of difficulty because of Covid when distributing course catalogues, and collecting membership fees. I want to acknowledge the major effort from Rachel van Run and her office team in managing the difficulty period.

For the last two years Chris Perera has been a major contributor working with tutors and members to offer a full range of courses. We now welcome Anne-Margaret in this role in future.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Discussion covered:

- Some members do not have email and yet it is a major method of communication. Members are always welcome to speak to

reception, and view notices displayed, and newsletters can assist in keeping everyone informed.

- One member questioned the limit of only one game option in the first round of enrolments.
- A tutor requested consideration of air filtration in the purple room.
- The garden maintenance may need a new gardening committee.

The meeting closed at 3.15 pm and teas and coffee was available.

These minutes are a true and accurate record.

David Collier

President

Del Stitz

Secretary