

Message from Marian

March 2022



Greetings to all U3A members

I don't know about you, but as I get older, the time seems to go faster as we try to fit in family, appointments and activities.

Already we are into March, and our first term activities are well under way. According to our Treasurer Shirley's statistics for 2021, (we haven't completed 2022 yet), our membership, despite events out of our control, is still very high at 159 financial members and I feel positive membership for 2022 will be similar.

We all know how Shirley loves numbers and statistics so I thought these might be of interest

Membership from the Riverland Council areas.

Renmark Paringa	77
Loxton Waikerie	26
Berri Barmera	55

Average age of our members is 72.8 years. Youngest---54 years. Oldest --95 years

Bank Balance - we have a very healthy Bank Balance at the end of January of \$16,715.
This allowed us to be able to keep the membership fee to a very low \$30.00.

Of course our current bank balance includes the Grant money for the defibrillator, First Aid Kit, accounting program and the air conditioning of our main meeting room. As you can see from the photo, **Member for Barker, Mr Tony Pasin**, attended and spoke briefly at the AGM and presented the cheque.



Speaking of the AGM

- **Business Arising** - The only business arising from the minutes of the 2021 AGM was the amendment to the Constitution reducing the term of the committee from two years to one. Thank you Brent Morrell for actioning this for us.
- **AGM Attendance** - The attendance at the AGM was down a little from previous years, but there was a long list of apologies.
- **Mr. Tony Pasin** was aware that we are an apolitical group, and his address was an insight into his family background, childhood and pathway to his 8½ years in Politics. It was quite inspiring and made him seem like a real person not someone in the media trying to convince us to vote for them.
- **Guest Speaker** - After a delicious morning tea with scones provided by Ellen Traeger and served by Ute Young and her helpers, we gathered around the computer to hear and see Mr. John Travers, a member of U3A Adelaide, demonstrate how we can utilise Zoom as a group or as individuals at home. Thank you Tony Guster for making that happen.

- **Committee Election** - Then it was onto the election of the Executive committee for 2022.
President and Publicity Officer - Marian Woodberry
Treasurer - Shirley Sims
Course Co-ordinator - Anne-Marie Riley
Grants Officer - Tony Guster
Committee members - Brent Morrell, Leonie Vriends, Mary Rothe and Mary Wagnitz. We welcome these new members and look forward to working with them.

Other news/activities

There are a couple of new activities this term that have got off to a good start.

- Cryptic Crosswords under the leadership of Brent Morrell and
- Learn to Knot or as I tend to think of it Get knotted, otherwise Macrame.
- Who would have thought that unless you lived in the early 1900's and lived on a boat that tying knots could be so challenging, frustrating but giving a sense of achievement when it all comes together? Our new Facilitators Gayleen and Deb are very patient.
- Tony kindly positioned our new Defibrillator and First Aid kit on the wall of the hallway outside the toilets as the most central position to access in case of an emergency.

Please contact any of the committee with any ideas for activities to share or perhaps interesting guest speakers from the wider community. We really would welcome your ideas.

Enjoy this mild Autumnal weather, indicated by the falling leaves already, and as always I encourage you to stay active physically , mentally and socially.

Marian Woodberry

Thank You, Daina



Daina Braddock, who was a founding member was thanked for her involvement in U3A Riverland over the past 7 years and presented with a token of appreciation by Marian