TUGGERAH LAKES U3A INC

14th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT DIGGERS @THE ENTRANCE

12th December, 2012

Meeting opened at 10.35am and President, John Collis welcomed 58 members and 1 guest.

Apologies were received from: Vivienne Donnelly, Barbara Skurr, Jim & Diane Cunningham, Norma Churchyard, Bev Buckley, Margaret Blundell.

Minutes of previous AGM held at "diggers@ The Entrance" on 7th December, 2011 were read and adopted on motion by Pam McGlinn and seconded by John Richards.

President's report

Tuggerah Lakes U3A is one of two hundred and forty U3As in Australia with combined membership of around 77,000 people. Currently, we have 152 members, three less than at the end of last year.

We were very fortunate to gain new Committee members at last year's AGM.: Secretary, Rhonda MacDiarmid, Treasurer, Peter Gloss, Course Coordinator, Harvey Birtwistle, Doreen Morley, Welfare and Diane Cunningham, Publicity.

Our new Course Coordinator, Harvey Birtwistle, arranged a wide variety of speakers this year. We had 34 talks with an average of 19 members attending. I thank all our speakers, both members and non-members, who presented to us this year.

We also thank Harvey Birtwistle for all the work he has put into arranging these talks, the committee members who have acted as secretaries, and Tom Marish and Tommy Thomas who have set up and operated the projector and the audio-visual equipment for each talk.

Our most popular regular interest groups during 2012 have been the **Discussion Group**, **Cryptic Crosswords** and the **Reading Group**, each attracting an average of around 12 members. Our **Walking group** looks for walks with some educational feature. In recent years this group has attracted between 6 and 22 participants.

Music Appreciation, held at Berkeley Vale, and **Creative Writing** at St David's Hall in Toukley attracted an average of 7 or 8 members and Mah Jong an average of 6 people at diggers Our smaller, more specialised groups are nevertheless much valued by their participants. **French conversation** at Canton Beach and **Movie Club** at Chittaway Bay.

A special course this term on Comparative Religion proved quite popular, attracting as many as 20 members.

Each of these groups has been led by members who contribute many hours to preparing and conducting the sessions. Pam McGlinn, Betty Siegman, Dorothy Rhodes, Barbara Skurr, Jim Cunningham, Henriette Vanechop, John Richards, Tony Thomson, Helen Jones and Cam Rhodes On behalf of all members, I thank all of the class leaders for their contribution to our U3A

After many years of running the Readers group, Dorothy Rhodes finally decided to step down from her role a few weeks ago. I ask you to join me in thanking Dorothy for her contribution over those years

Doreen Morley has been an excellent Welfare Officer in a year in which we needed just that. Doreen has telephoned and sent cards to convey our thoughts and good wishes to many members and their families who have suffered ill health or loss of loved ones during the year. Thank you, Doreen, for expressing our good wishes and condolences with such empathy.

At last year's AGM, Diane Cunningham joined the Committee and became our new Publicity officer. Diane brought fresh thinking to the Committee and achieved a great deal before she resigned after several months for health and other reasons

She revamped our publicity brochure and organised display stands at functions around the Lake Diane was also a major driving force behind our new publicity bookmark. On behalf of all members, I would like to thank Diane for all her work as publicity officer.

We will be distributing the bookmark through libraries and retirement villages.

Our website receives about 25 visits per month from members, and 20 visits per month from potential new members. Visitors stay at our site for an average of 3 to 6 minutes

We held a **social** here at diggers in March attended by 32 members. **Coach trip** to the Hawkesbury Paddlewheeler. Many thanks to Pam McGlinn for organising these socials, and for the work she does in booking our meeting rooms.

The Committee decided that existing members shall no longer need to complete a form to renew membership. They need only pay the annual fee of \$20 to the Treasurer, together with their name or membership number.

Members may also now pay their subscription directly into our bank account, provided they give their membership number (or name) in the reference field when making the payment

Our bank balance and the cost of tea or coffee

Two years ago, our bank balance was higher than we needed to meet foreseeable expenses. The Committee reduced the cost of tea, coffee and biscuits at our sessions to \$1 per attendee.

It is prudent to maintain a reserve of funds to protect us against unexpected expenses, such as replacing equipment. Or diggers@the entrance might cease providing us with the use of a meeting room.

So the charge for tea and biscuits will return to its former level of \$2 per attendee from the beginning of the 2013 year, unless the new Committee decides otherwise.

Our Newsletter - and are you willing to receive it by email only?

At present, all members receive a paper copy of our newsletter each term with the full program. Some members might be happy to receive the newsletter by email instead of a printed copy. If you would choose electronic delivery, please give us feedback. We may introduce that option early in the coming year.

Public Officer As an incorporated Association, we are required to have a Public Officer as our primary contact for State Authorities. On behalf of us all, I would like to thank Cam Rhodes who has held this position for the past year.

Cam tended his resignation about a month ago for health reasons. The Committee has appointed Rhonda MacDiarmid as our new Public Officer for these purposes.

We are also required to have a Public Officer for the purposes of the Income Tax laws. Several months ago, the Committee appointed me to that ongoing position

After eight years on the Committee, Jayne Davis is not standing for re-election this year. Jayne was our Newsletter editor, and her sharp eyes as a proof-reader are still useful to Betty, our current editor. Jayne has also been Welfare Officer and a useful colleague and friend. I thank Jayne for her long contribution to our Association.

I conclude by reminding us all that the health and the future of our U3A depends upon the willingness of all members to contribute. Whether it is your ideas, your skills, your presentations or your time, please contribute.

Treasurer's report

Peter presented his report with the aid of a powerpoint presentation. Report attached. Moved John Collis and seconded Betty Siegman that Treasurer's report be accepted.

Election of Committee Members

The President vacated the chair and Geoff Hatch, U3A Regional Representative, took the chair and acted as Returning Officer.

Nominations had been received and seconded for eight positions, and, there being only one nomination for each position, Geoff declared the following members elected for 2013:

President:John CollisVice President:Gloria WatsonSecretary:Rhonda MacDiarmidTreasurer:Peter Gloss

Committee Members:

Harvey Birtwistle Pam McGlinn Doreen Morley Betty Siegman

Address by incoming President

John thanked Geoff for acting as Returning Officer. He explained that this new committee was only 8 members, 2 less than the previous committee, and that there were no new members on the Committee. Members were asked to consider volunteering to assist with the Committee. We need to add new members with fresh ideas each year.

The Brain Gym course is to go ahead in Term 1 next year arranged, managed and presented by Harvey Birtwistle. John invited members to give a talk, or suggest a speaker; and would members be interested in a course about using tablets?

Special Presentation

President, John Collis moved that Tom Marish be presented LIFE MEMBERSHIP. Dorothy Rhodes spoke in favour of the proposal. She outlined the formation of Tuggerah Lakes U3A Inc., in which Tom was actively involved. He has held many positions -- President, Newsletter Editor, speaker and audio/visual equipment organiser, and thoroughly deserving of this Life Membership.

Tom Marish thanked everyone involved and acknowledged Tommy and other committee members involved alongside him over the years.

Video message from Peter Wood (a past President)

Short Video clips - visit to some of our groups

Address Geoff Hatch

Geoff is Regional Representative for the Central Coast-Cumberland Region. He is Treasurer of U3A Network NSW Inc, and President of Hawkesbury U3A.

U3A Network NSW consists of 68 U3A groups in NSW and 15 groups interstate. The Network is there to help you with blanket insurance, licences for the use of copyright material, screen rights for use in classes. There is an extensive library in Toronto, information on Network website. We are entitled, as members to use U3AOnline notes, hardcopy, etc.

Network help organise conferences. The next 3-5 April, 2013, in Goulburn; then Armidale in 2014. It is planned to hold biennial conferences thereafter.

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