

TUGGERAH LAKES U3A INC

15th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT DIGGERS @THE ENTRANCE

11th December, 2013

Meeting opened at 10.35am and President, John Collis welcomed 68 members and 1 guest.

Apologies were received from: Wendy Potter, Norma Churchyard, Henriette Vanechop, Mary Baggot, Eva Searle, Margaret Goode, Wendt Dalton, Sheila Sweetman, Lucy Bembo.

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

President's report

Currently, we have 144 members, eight less than at the end of last year.

Talks We have enjoyed 33 talks on a wide variety of subjects during 2013. Twenty-three were presented by outside speakers, and the other ten by members. Our thanks to all the speakers. The numbers attending talks has varied from 13-32 people.

We thank Gloria Watson for arranging these talks Tom Marish and Tommy Thomas who have set up and operated the projector and the audio-visual equipment.

Our special interest classes included creative writing, readers group, cryptic crosswords, music appreciation, walking group, movie appreciation, Mah Jong, discussion group, and French conversation. Each class offers the opportunity to learn, to contribute, to keep your mind active, and to get to know your fellow members. We introduced two new classes this year. In Term 1 we began Brain Gym - later renamed "Keep the Marbles Rolling". In Term 2, we experimented with another new class, the brain-child of our member Trevor Kruger, which seeks to provide stimulating ideas which are then used as conversation starters -- now called "Conversations". Both have been interesting and popular.

During Term 4, Tommy Thomas ran three sessions on using tablets. These were held at the Senior Citizens Club in Long Jetty, which has a suitable Wi-Fi network.

In total, our regular classes, old and new, met on 174 occasions during 2013. They have been led by members who contribute many hours to preparing and conducting the sessions: Pam McGlinn, Betty Siegman, Barbara Skurr, Henriette Vanechop, John Richards, Doreen Morley, Rhonda MacDiarmid and Trevor Kruger, as well as our two "techies" Tom Marish and Tommy Thomas, who captured the videos and set up the projector for the Conversations class.

Socials and trips Early in April, thirty-nine members went by coach to the ABC Studios in Ultimo. There, we had lunch and were taken on a fascinating guided tour of the Television and Radio Studios, including the studio from which Juanita Phillips reads the ABC evening news.

At the end of October, we held a Social Day at diggers. Those members who attended were greatly entertained by the Creative Writing group, who read out some of their own amusing works.

We thank Pam McGlinn for organising the trip to the Studios as well as the social, and for all the work she does in booking our meeting rooms at diggers each term.

Welfare Sadly, two of our members, Harvey Birtwistle and Cam Rhodes have passed away since our last AGM. They were well-liked and respected men, each of whom contributed much to our U3A, Harvey for only a short while, and Cam, who was a life member, for many years. We remember them with appreciation. Thank you, Doreen, for expressing our good wishes and condolences with such empathy to members who have been unwell or bereaved.

Our website continues to receive about 20 visits per month from members, who usually come to the site to look at the term program in the newsletter, and about 20 visits per month from potential new members.

Our regulatory status We have registered with the ACNC (Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission) and in the past month, we have lodged our Annual Information Statement with that body. We will also need to give them details of our new Committee, following this AGM. In the next few weeks, Rhonda will lodge our annual return with the NSW authority which regulates Associations such as ours. We must also comply with Commonwealth laws, including taxation. In recent years, we have received income tax exemption because our sole purpose continues to be to provide education and we have been endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a charity.

We urgently need more “techies” We do well to applaud Tom and Tommy for their willingness to set up and operate our laptop and projector. Unlike most members, they are not able to pick and choose which sessions they attend. For years, either Tom or Tommy, or occasionally myself, have had to be present at every talk, and to arrive 30 or 40 minutes early to set-up the equipment. The job has become onerous because there are not many to share it. We urgently need more volunteers, whether male or female, especially from younger members. The more people willing to take a turn, just once or twice each term, the less onerous the duty will be. If you might do the job once or twice a term, please let Tom or myself know.

Please contribute your ideas for improvement I thank two ordinary members, Margaret Blundell and Trevor Kruger, who have attended several of our Committee meetings this year, contributing suggestions and opinions. I urge you all to complete the Feedback Questionnaire which is available on the tables, to let us know what you think about our present range of talks and classes.

Is there any other aspect of our U3A's activities which you wish was changed, or could be improved? Please let a committee member know. Be assured that your input will be passed on to the committee for discussion.

We are willing to run new courses. If you have an interest in a particular subject or hobby, and would be willing to run a series of classes to share your interest, please let a Committee member know.

Concluding remarks This has been my third year as President of our Association. I thank each of my colleagues on the Committee over the past three years for their constructive attitude which has allowed us to make decisions in a co-operative and friendly manner.

Treasurer's report

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

Election of Committee Members

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

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

President:	Pam McGlinn	Vice President:	Gloria Watson
Secretary:	Rhonda MacDiarmid	Treasurer:	Peter Gloss

Committee Members:

John Collis	James Cunningham	Marion Morahan
Doreen Morley	Betty Siegman	

Address by incoming President

Good morning everyone, from new President, the 8th president of this U3A since its beginning 14 years ago. Thank you so much John, for the past three years and the extremely capable job you have done. You will be a hard act to follow and I can only say how much I appreciate the fact that you have agreed to keep updating the website. I'm sure I will draw on your experience many times as I learn my way around my new job. Next year our newsletters will be available on-line, for those who prefer them that way rather than a printed copy. Also we will only send out a single copy to couples who only require one copy between them. Please let Betty know if either of these factors apply to you.

On Mondays the play reading group is to resume under the leadership of Christine Kilner. This will be held at Diggers on the 1st and 3rd Mondays. Please contact Christine directly if you are interested in this group as she needs to know the numbers before it commences. We thank Christine for taking on the class and look forward to having some future play readings at our social mornings.

Those of you who have not yet renewed their membership for next year, just a reminder that you no longer have to fill in a form, but just send your \$20, to our treasurer at his home address. However, I do urge you to fill in the form you have there on the table before you, so that we can give you the kind of classes in which your interests lie. Next year, Jim Cunningham is to start an entirely new series about literature, and we do appreciate his initiative in setting this up. Please read his promos and attend the classes at the Berkeley Centre.

I believe that is all that I need say to you at this point, except that I hope to see many of you next year at the numerous courses that are available to us all.

Address Sandy Freeman

Sandy is Regional Representative for the Central Coast-Cumberland Region. She is Vice President of Eastlakes U3A. She remarked about what a happy group we all were as she was listening to the talk outside before people were admitted and she said looking around at the tables at the animated conversations she could see that we were a very friendly group. Perhaps that's one of the main advantages of being a small group; all the regulars know each other. When there are hundreds you would hardly ever see half of them. Pam quipped back that maybe we should go out onto the street and drag people in and Sandy replied that their group has a special day when everyone brings a friend. Sounds like a good idea.

WEBSITE: A short presentation about our website was presented by John Collis. He showed members how to log into the website and move around the site.

Lucky Door Prize (\$20 membership 2014) was won by Sandra Cearns (Member no. 491)

The meeting closed at 11-40 followed by Buffet lunch

Signed.....President