

## **PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AGM 2015.**

**APOLOGIES:** Rita and John Richards, Marjorie Nilsson, Helen and Douglas Leslie, Vicki Rollinson, Judith Marish, Bev Singleton.

Thank you Gail and Rhonda. Thanks especially to Rhonda who last year leapt straight from a three year stint as Secretary into that of Treasurer, and despite a major operation at the close of last year, managed to have cleared both duties admirably and handed over to the new secretary without any problems, while at the same time collecting and receipting all the members' money received at our last AGM.

But as far as we are concerned, there has been nothing but problems over the last few months. I had to laugh when I read last year's very optimistic report that all was now well with Diggers as they had assured us that our usual rooms would once again be available to us at the start of 2015. We sailed along nicely for the first few terms didn't we? but came to an abrupt halt sometime in third term, when without any notice whatsoever, Diggers suddenly turned our usual rooms into a snooker club, moving all their pool tables which had been located upstairs, down into the rooms previously used by us – effectively cutting us off from our usual areas. Once again we were left flat-footed, trying to notify our members of changes in our previously sent out programme.

Somehow we managed to struggle through with all the changes and the alternate arrangements that Diggers offered us. Of course, we have probably had it too good for too long, as every time we go to meetings with other U3A's, their major problems seem to be with finding reasonably priced venues.

Upon looking back to our beginnings, I found that we have always had some of our classes here at what used to be called The Tuggerah Lakes Memorial Club. I for one, certainly remember the very first writing class being conducted here, and cryptic crosswords has always been here. What we intend to do about our changed circumstances, I will explain in more detail when I next address you, sometime later.

At this time it is more for reflecting on the year now almost completed. I would like to thank the committee for all their help during this somewhat difficult time of change. Especially I wish to thank Betty Siegman for her hard work in

finding alternate venues for us. I wish to thank the outgoing committee, some of whom will be leaving us this year and whose previous years of service has been much appreciated. Not reapplying for committee duties, some for health reasons, are the following members, Doreen Morley, Jim Cunningham, Marjorie Nillsen and Gloria Watson. I do thank them most sincerely for their contributions during the preceding years, especially Gloria who held various positions on the committee for a long time.

Our thanks also for the leaders of the various classes, because I know how much work they put into it, and how much the people who go to these classes really enjoy them. Heaps of thanks in particular to the members who give up their own homes for the use of U3A members, some of whom have been doing so for many years, and particularly in this time of looking for alternate venues, it is certainly much appreciated. They are Henriette Vanechope, John and Rita Richards, and more recently Dorothy Rhodes. And certainly our thanks also to our tech support personnel, ie Tom Marish and John Collis, and occasionally Tommy Thomas. Without their expertise we would not be able to bring you the visual displays that correspond with our lectures. By the way Tommy will be taking photos today for the Network Newspaper so smile nicely when you see him hovering.

In regard to our newsletter we now have an email distribution list of some 80-90 members, and this method of distributing the newsletter is working quite well and also saving us printing and postage costs. I do hope most members make the effort to read it thoroughly, as answers to many questions asked can be found in the Newsletter

As of today, we have 118 members (for 2015), consisting of 6 life members and 112 ordinary members. At the end of the 2014 year, we had 143 members, so we are down 25.

Our welfare officer has sent out several cards to various members who were not well, including at one stage the welfare officer herself, who I sent a card to.

And I think that's all I have to say at this stage.