



U3A BAW BAW INC

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on 12 March 2021

REPORT ON 2020

Because your brain doesn't want to retire



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**U3A BAWBAW
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

AGENDA

**FRIDAY 12 MARCH 2021
ROYAL HOTEL DROUIN
2.00PM**

1. Meeting declared open by retiring President Mary Howlett.
2. Welcome and Acknowledgement of traditional owners
3. Apologies
4. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting
5. President's Annual Report: Mary Howlett
6. Treasurer's Annual Report: Ann Corcoran
7. Courses Report: Steph Wellard
8. Resolution under the terms of CAV Model Rules, Rule 53 (1) *-That the number of ordinary members of the committee for the coming year be nine.*
9. Resolution *that the fees remain at \$40 for 2022 and are reviewed in 2022 for the 2023 year.*
10. Introduction of Returning Officer, Mayor Councillor Danny Goss, for the election
11. Election of office bearers and ordinary committee members:
The Officers of the Association shall be President, Vice-President, Past President, Secretary and Treasurer and ordinary members as decided (9).
12. Vote of thanks to the Returning Officer
13. Close of AGM

U3A Baw Baw
Annual General Meeting
For the year 2019
RSL Hall
Drouin
held on
Friday 13 March 2020 at 2.00pm

ATTENDANCE:

36 U3A Baw Baw members and

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Cr Danny Goss, | Mayor, BawBaw Shire Council |
| Cr Keith Cook, | Baw Baw Shire |
| Cr Peter Kostos, | Baw Baw Shire |
| Ms Jane Oakley | CEO, Committee for Gippsland |
| Mr Bill Westhead. | President RSL Warragul |
| Mr Rod McNab, | President, RSL Drouin |
| Mr Rob Hutchison, | Manager, Drouin Community Bank |
| Mr Russell Huntingdon, | U3A Vic Network |

APOLOGIES:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Russell Broadbent | Member for Monash |
| Gary Blackwood | Member for Narracan |
| Harriet Shing | Member for Eastern Victoria |
| Bill Baker | Lyrebird Village |
| Lianne Williams | West Gippsland Library Corporation |
| Gerard Theile | |
| Prue Oborn | |
| Mary Anglin | |

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm and the President Mary Howlett acknowledged the traditional owners and welcomed all guests and members.

MINUTES OF THE 2018 YEAR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Geoff Clynes moved *that the minutes of the 2018 year Annual General Meeting be accepted*
Seconded Steph Wellard, Passed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mary Howlett reported on a successful year with the highlight being our 20th birthday celebrations which were attended by over 90 past and present members. The highlight was the launch of the book, 'Our Home in our Words'. She thanked the committee for all their work in making the day a success.

The Literary lunch in October and the Christmas break up were also very successful. A huge range of courses were held and three interesting excursions. She thanked the committee for their untiring work and the Shire for their support. She expressed her gratitude to the RSL for their generous sharing of their rooms with U3A.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The treasurer reported an opening balance of \$30,134.74 and a closing balance of \$31,056.74. Ann Corcoran *moved that the financial statement tabled at the meeting be accepted*. Seconded Margaret Theile, Passed .

Mary thanked Di Potter for her work as Treasurer and thanked Ann for picking up the position due to unforeseen circumstances.

COURSES REPORT

Kaye Dennis, Courses Coordinator reported a successful year with the following courses running:

Computer Users Group

Fine Film Group

Hooked on Music

Humour: Seriously! No Joking!

The Kitchens of our Childhood

Scrabble

Significant Women Artists of the 20th Century

Soapbox

Tablets and Smart Phones

Walking Group

What's the Matter?

Kaye Dennis moved that the Courses report be accepted, Seconded Donna D'Arcy, Passed
Mary thanked Kaye for all her work on coordinating the wonderful array of courses.

RESOLUTIONS

In accordance with the CAV Model Rules, Rule 53 (1), Geoff Clynes moved *that the number of ordinary members on the committee for the year coming year be 9*. Seconded Kaye Dennis, Passed.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The Returning Officer, Mr Rob Hutchinson, Manager Bendigo Bank conducted the election.

The following people were elected unopposed :

President Mary Howlett

Secretary Sally Alsop

Treasurer Ann Corcoran

Vice President

Ordinary Members

Steph Wellard

Virginia Rowley

Margaret Theile

Robert Dunlop

Geoff Clynes

Donna D'rcy

Nigel Beresford

Ruth Renouf (due to an oversight Ruth was confirmed as elected shortly after the election process)

Rodney Wellard (Co-opted later)

Rob Hutchinson congratulated and welcomed all committee members.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

This will be held on Friday 12 March.

GUEST SPEAKER

The President of the Warragul RSL, Mr Bill Westhead gave an interesting address and was thanked by Geoff Clynes.

Mary Howlett thanked the Returning Officer, Mr Rob Hutchinson, and all guests and members for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 2.45pm

REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Annual General Meeting in March 2020 was a successful gathering and an enthusiastic committee was appointed with great dreams and plans for the year. But the COVID plague had other ideas! Nostradamus himself could not have predicted that U3ABawBaw members would become avid users of Zoom. But we did!!

Thanks to the generosity and skill of John Parker and Steph Wellard, a rich offering of courses was devolved and members were assisted to learn how to zoom and access the courses that you can read about in the Courses reports.

At the same time, a dedicated committee was working with U3A Network to produce a new webpage which has become a major means of communication, not only to members, but to the outside world. Alongside this, an operating system has been implemented to streamline enrolments, management of membership lists and financial reports and operations.

The Committee continued to meet via zoom and continue to keep our group alive with responsibilities for secretarial matters, finance, publicity, Chat Sheet production, maintaining the website and keeping it current and, as mentioned earlier, developing and delivering courses. They have been wonderful and deserve a vote of gratitude. Margaret Theile, Kaye Dennis and Virginia Rowley have indicated that they will not be standing for committee this year. They have all contributed over many years, Margaret as secretary and organiser of our 20th birthday celebrations, Kaye as Course convenor and Virginia as a very supportive committee member while contributing to the course committee and presenting a very popular series. They are not leaving us, just moving sideways from the Committee and leaving room for new members to take an active role.

A hastily convened Christmas Function was organised as restrictions allowed it and a great number of members enjoyed actually seeing each other as we partook of a meal together safely at the Royal Hotel. After the success of this we have organised to book the hotel on the second Friday of the month until we can return to our rooms.

We have received support from U3ANetwork in developing the computer systems and are very grateful for the time and guidance given to the IT committee. It strengthened the sense of being part of a wider U3A.

As always, I would like to thank the Baw Baw Shire. We haven't bothered them all year with broken locks or stained carpets but they have still been very supportive by accommodating our requests about rent reduction.

And of course a vote of thanks to our members who have embraced the technology and joined in courses and gatherings. We look forward to a great 2021 as we enjoy the offerings on zoom and look forward to meeting "live" when it is safe to do so.

Mary Howlett
President

COURSES REPORT

What a challenging year 2020 has been for everyone isolated at home during our periods of Covid 19 lockdowns. We have had an exciting year of discovery, experimenting and learning to run our Courses on Zoom, enabling our u3a Baw Baw to offer a number of interesting and enjoyable Courses throughout the year, thanks to the ingenuity and hard work of all our Tutors and to the members who persisted with Zoom and attended the Courses. We established a number of new Courses, Introduction to Zoom, Did You Know, Book Club, Art History and Virtual Gallery Tours and Soap Box Seminars and our favourites Mystery History and Film Club were able to continue on Zoom.

Mystery History

Zoom classes just aren't the same! I knew it would be difficult going into the Zoom set-up that things would be tricky, but with a stalwart and very patient group of attendees with me, we ventured around the globe for the third year. We visited places and times that turned us all into *Time Lords* and armchair travellers extraordinaire! We walked along The Rabbit Proof Fence and trekked with Charlemagne, the Roman Emperor Hadrian, Mary Anning, Madame Tussaud, the Medicis of Florence and we finished with Oliver Cromwell's banning of Christmas. We learned about Roxelana of the Harem, Orson Well's *War of the Worlds* and how a hoax worked, we trod carefully through the haunted (or not) House of Winchester and visited with Queen Elizabeth I and her mystic prognosticator, Dr John Dee. We looked at slavery in Ancient Rome; we floated above the Arctic in a hot air balloon and were voyeurs into the private world of Barbie. We looked at ways in which concrete and the shipping container changed our lives and at the barbarism of the East India Company.

All in all, we have travelled far and wide - and all with a snoot of the nose and a flick of the wrist to COVID!

Virginia Rowley

Film Club

Over the many years, the routine for our happy U3A Film Club of (currently 14) members was to attend Warragul Cinema once a week to view a Showcase film, then attend the Courthouse restaurant for luncheon once a month to review and score the 4 or so films viewed previously. Stimulating conversations and discussions as well as a pleasant day out resulted from these monthly reviews. 2020 and COVID 19 arrived. "Oh no!! The Warragul Theatre and the Courthouse Restaurant are closed!!" 'SBS ON DEMAND' came to our rescue! Each week a different member had the job of choosing the next SBS movie, an email went out to members advising of the film for the week, to be viewed on their respective Computer, iPad, iPhone or TV. At the end of the month U3A held a Zoom meeting where members reviewed and scored the previous 4 films watched, and shared in the fun and a variety of views of these films. At the end of year 2020, we gathered at the outdoor area at Railway Hotel for lunch, to review and to vote for our top 10 best films from the 40 or so we had viewed during the year, the result? 'Incendies' was voted the best film watched for 2020 (Initial release: 17/09/2010. Director: Denis Villeneuve. Languages: French, Arabic, English. Awards: 8 plus). Our treasured U3A Film Club will survive with their flexible approach and our enthusiastic members. Thank you.

Barbara Brown

Did you Know?

In term 3, as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic we moved to providing classes via Zoom and the 'Did you know?' course was one of these. John Parker presented 10 weekly sessions on a range of topics that he had been involved in or experienced in his role as Surveyor General of Victoria. These were recorded and added to U3A Baw Baw's YouTube channel where members of the class who could not be present were able to view them at a later date.

John Parker

Soapbox Seminars

Term 4 saw us run via Zoom this popular course where different members of our U3A presented weekly on a range of fascinating topics including Warangal's civic park, the Arctic, Black Saturday bushfires, human language, climate, early Melbourne, legal stories, Joyce Loch and Drouin's trees. These were recorded and added to our YouTube channel.

Book Club

Our Book Club, which commenced in Term 2, 2020, has been a successful and enjoyable initiative during the Pandemic. All our meetings were held on Zoom and communication via email. We explored the works of Tim Winton, Helen Garner, Kate Grenville, Thomas Keneally and several other famous Australian authors. The sharing and discussion of these novels did much to alleviate the loneliness and uncertainty of Victoria's lock down experiences. Our Book Club continues to thrive, and we are now able to meet once a month at an alternative venue for discussion and lunch.

Steph Wellard and Mary Howlett

Art History and Virtual Gallery Tours

This Course was initiated to allow our members to continue to visit Art Galleries, both here and internationally through Virtual Art Gallery Tours. We visited a number of amazing virtual exhibitions, in Bendigo and at the NGV Gallery. During 2020, we also explored the work of the artists of The Heidelberg School, paying special homage to the Forgotten Women Artists who painted alongside their more famous male compatriots. We were able to pay a visit to the Celia Rosser exhibition at the Sale Gallery, our first outing of the year, a very enjoyable experience. We are now focusing our attention on The British Artists of the Romantic period, via zoom, and planning more actual Gallery visits, as our freedoms increase.

Steph Wellard and Sally Alsop

Steph Wellard

Course Co-ordinator

Course Sub Committee

Technology Advances Made by U3A Baw Baw in 2020

Our website, which had been well maintained for many years by Graeme Fredrickson, was by early 2020 beginning to show signs of needing to be updated. U3A Network Victoria had at that time developed a website template which offered U3As a free secure website using a simple methodology, a written user guide, and mentoring to establish and maintain the website. The website is responsive to different screen sizes such as mobile phone, tablet, laptop or desktop. Basic pages in the template include Homepage, Contact Us, About Us, Memberships, Courses and Latest News. U3As taking up the offer are assisted to prepare their own data, content, images and logos. Network Victoria provides website hosting for U3As with up to 200 members at no cost.

U3A Network Victoria has further developed a management administration system (U-MAS) that Interfaces with the website template that allows information, such as courses, memberships, etc.to be accessed through the website. At the same time as moving across to the new website we adopted U-MAS which allowed us to streamline many of the administrative functions of our U3A.

Another technological advance that was virtually forced upon us, as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, was the adoption of Zoom for online classes. Once it became clear that we would not be able to meet together for some time, we were able to acquire a Zoom license through a grant arranged by U3A Network Victoria. Tutors were able to stream live their class presentations from their own home to members in their own home. We expect even when everything returns to pre pandemic levels we will still maintain this approach for those who are not able to attend a class in our rooms.

John Parker
IT Committee