



**BANYULE**  
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

**U3A Banyule Inc A00136220**

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## **U3A BANYULE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023, 10.00AM, HELD VIA WEBINAR**

**Attendees (via Zoom):** Elizabeth Ainsworth, Liz Ash, Robert Bender, Anita Bourke, Penny Braybrook, Janice Brown, Mayor Peter Castaldo, Linda Clarke, Helen Cochrane, Bruce Cochrane, Jan Connor, Judith Craze, Helen Crook, Noni Crowther, Kate Cummins, Christine Decrausaz, Steve Dennis, Yvonne Du Plessis, Julie Elsworth, Sandra Erickson, Owen Evans, Marg Fievez, Carol Gardner, Yvonne Griffiths, Jan Gross, Suzanne Gunningham, Margaret Jack, Dianne Jackson, Rosalie Jacobs, Megan Johnstone, John Jones-Parry, Gina Jones-Parry, Sharon Karasmanis, Inge Kearney, Wendy Kellock, Kaye Kieni, Joan Learmont, Lois Lee, Coralie Leins, Juliette Lewis, John Liew, Valerie MacPhee, Lois Maguire, Michael Maguire, Monika Mann, Alan Marks, Milena Maranville, Penelope Matthews-Hicks, Lorraine Mattson, Elizabeth McCrohan, Helen McKinnon, Graeme McKinnon, Bee Mitchell-Dawson, Diane Murphy, Keith Owens, Jan Palich, Marina Paniz, Bronwyn Porter, Tom Porter, Marian Power, Jan Ramp, Adrian Ramp, Janet Ringrose, Jen Rippon, Julie Roer, Willem Roodenburg, Therese Ryan, Rosemary Sceats, Russell Scouler, Barbara Sekules, Anne Smith, Heather Stephens, Diana Sze Hong, Jutta-Inge Szwed, Sam Terranova, Geoff Vaughan, Julie Vomero, Leesa Walsh, Liz Waud, Kevin Whiting, Tricia Willett, Dianne Williamson, Megan Williamson, Mary Wilson, Ian Wright.

**Proxy Forms Received:** Maureen Adkins, Maria Axarlis-Coulter, Pauline Behan, Sandra Bogacz, Paule Cartwright, Richard Cartwright, Sheila Colls, Jennifer Chrystie, John Chrystie, David Cox, Leonard Cramer, Philippe Decrausaz, Mary Di Carlo, Pasqualino Di Carlo, Judith Elsworth, Susan Finlay, Sonia Gilderdale, Judy Grikepelis, Peter Gurney, Patricia Gutierrez, Bernadette Hogan, Carrol Hooley, Patricia Jankus, Hester Joyce, Kathy Keane, Janice Kelly, Dianne Lacroix, Mary Lovatt, David Lovatt, Judith McCall, Justine McDonough, Jenny McKinnis, Diana McKormack, Janina Mc Pherson, Julie Mashall, Phillipa Merchant, Verna Mills, David Mills, Karen Mills, David O'Brien, Geok Ooi, Lynette Phillips, Terry Prior, Kevin Portch, Judi Riley, Lyndal Ritchie, Jeff Rowe, Moira Schultz, June Sharp, Helen Shinkfield, Frances Springbett, Michael Steer, Jo Towler, Antoinette Tyers, Liz Vogl, Val Wake, Anne Wallace, Joyce Walton, June Watson, Helen West, Jennifer Willis, Fiona Wilson.

**Apologies:** Maria Axarlis-Coulter, Pauline Behan, Anthony Carbines MP, Cr Alison Champion, Sheila Colls, David Cox, Cr Peter Dimarolous, Cr Mark di Pasquali, Cr Rick Garotti, Cr Alida McKern, Cr Tom Melican, Cr Fiona Misiniko, Lyn Phillips, Val Wake, Fiona Wilson

### **1. Welcome by Chairperson**

President Judith Craze gave a very warm welcome to all members attending the 37th Annual General Meeting of U3A Banyule Incorporated. The meeting, being conducted by the use of Zoom technology, is permissible under the U3A constitution and fulfilled all requirements for an incorporated association.

Judith acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land, the Wurundjeri woi-wurrung people of the Kulin nation and paid her respects to their elders – past, present and those emerging and also

acknowledged their continued connection to land, water and the community. She also extended that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples attending the meeting.

With 81 members attending via Zoom and 63 proxy forms received there were more than sufficient numbers to proceed with the meeting (40 required).

Judith warmly welcomed guests Mayor Peter Castaldo, Deputy Mayor Alida McKern and other councillors and sincerely thanked Peter for making the time to attend and for his efforts to support seniors living an active, socially connected & healthy life in the Banyule Community.

Joan Learmont and Valerie McPhee were appointed as scrutineers for the proxy voting; and Michael Maguire appointed as scrutineer for the online polling.

## **2. Confirmation of Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 18 August 2022**

Minutes of the AGM held on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022 were posted online over two weeks ago for members to read.

Motion: That the minutes of the AGM held on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022, be confirmed

Moved by: Inge Kearney                      Seconded by: Heather Stephens                      Carried

## **3. Confirmation of Minutes of the Special General Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

Minutes of the AGM held on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022 were posted online over two weeks ago for members to read.

Motion: That the minutes for the Special General Meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 be confirmed.

Moved: Milena Maranville                      Seconded: Dianne Williamson                      Carried

## **4. Annual Report 2022/2023 presented by Judith Craze, President**

Judith advised that a full version of the Annual Report had been posted on the U3A Banyule website and presented some highlights and photos of the past year. The full report is as follows:

*This is indeed a special year. In May, we held the Special General Meeting towards Constitutional change and we are about to hold the AGM for 2022-23. Two big meetings in one year! We are grateful to our members for their active participation in the Special General Meeting in May and the support given for much needed reforms. It is vital that we meet our obligations as an incorporated entity and ensure that as an organization we are current, relevant and clear in our purpose. Towards this end, our Committee of Management and our Support Role leaders work with great vision and purpose. Particularly, the Governance Sub Committee led by Milena Maranville and well supported by Dianne Williamson, has been a tour de force in reviewing our Constitution and policies. We have a Strategic Plan and it is pleasing to see that we are not only delivering on the goals set at the beginning of 2022 but we have achieved additional innovation and improvement.*

*In 2022, our membership increased by 17% taking our membership to 853 and this year, while we are still enrolling new members at this point, our membership has increased by another 5%, taking us to over 900. As we have not advertised the work of U3A Banyule for a number of years, clearly word of mouth has continued to increase numbers and is an affirmation of what we offer. Local demographic forecasts tell us that the number of retirees will continue to grow and thus, U3A Banyule will need to plan for the challenge of offering an even broader program. The Committee of Management carefully monitors these trends in order to meet increased demands.*

*Financially we are greatly indebted to the work of Kevin Whiting, our Treasurer who has overseen reform of our financial practices and carefully managed our budgets. Given the increasing cost of hiring CMR1 & CMR 2 spaces at ILCH and the other spaces we use for classes and events, we will need to modestly increase fees for 2024.*

*Our program has grown from 57 courses in 2022 to 64 in 2023 (including two extra Yoga and Pilates classes) along with extensive public speaking, outings, social events and lecture program. Our tutors are managing waitlists very effectively and backfilling as soon as vacancies arise. A big vote of thanks goes to Sharon Karasmanis who does an amazing job as Course Coordinator and Marg Fievez as Lecture Coordinator. To those who actively deliver these programs, our tutors, lecturers and speaker facilitators and presenters, we owe much gratitude. Alas, our long association with La Trobe University came to an end in 2023 as La Trobe can no longer accommodate ex officio members but they have advised that they are willing to provide some one-off presentations which we look forward to offering our members.*

*We greatly value CMR 1 & CMR 2 at ILCH; our much-needed hub. Without this, we cannot offer this broad program. We hire 13 other spaces for classes. I wish to that Marg Fievez and now, Tania Rostan who has taken over, for their careful management of hiring all the spaces, long and short-term, to manage our huge program and growing needs.*

*In 2023, U3A Banyule has been involved in negotiations with Yarra Plenty Regional Library and Banyule City Council to negotiate a Letter of Agreement towards ensuring the continuity of ILCH as our central hub. We are shortly to sign off on this agreement. As partners with YPRL, we take our role seriously, promoting library membership and events. Through the BCC Seniors' Network, we enjoy strong communication with other organizations involved in improving the lot of older adults and to this end we strive to work cooperatively and towards mutually beneficial outcomes and initiatives.*

*Our relationship with Banyule City Council (BCC) is of key importance. We are valued by BCC for our work in informing their Age Friendly and Community initiatives. I thank those members who attend the many consultative meetings and forums or take time to fill in surveys. It is about improving the lives of older adults in our community, which as an organization we are also committed to. It is also about our organization having a voice. Currently, Banyule City Council's focus is on the creation of an Older Adults Framework 2023-2031 and that is exciting. We greatly benefit from our close relations with BCC. During this year we have met with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and other councillors to give them a greater understanding of our needs and the demands on our organization. Our Mayor and Deputy Mayor, on learning about our Nonagenarians Morning Tea asked if they could attend and subsequently, "The Banner" featured our special group. It is greatly valued that our council is keen to support our work where it can.*

*The BCC has been very generous to U3A Banyule. We have applied for three grants during 2022-23, which when granted, enabled the replacement of the electric piano and stand; the overdue redevelopment of our website and provision of extra technical materials; and purchase of craft supplies to be used during our Seniors Month activities. I would like to thank our knitters not only for their upcoming teaching day for Seniors' Week but for their two craft sales.*

*Not only have we recently implemented a new website but we have trialled Trybooking as a far more efficient booking system. Our members have received both initiatives most positively. I wish to acknowledge the considerable work of the Website Review team: Penny Braybrook, Mary Wilson, Barb Sekules, Heather Stevens (and me) and the Trybooking team: Kevin Whiting, Heather Stevens, Sharon Karasmanis and Tania Rostan.*

*Our organization is invested in giving our members opportunities to socialize. Joan Learmont's Lingering Lunches and Elaine Rees Excursions; the Annual Lunch and Annual Forum are eagerly awaited and well attended. Afternoon teas following Public Lectures have featured this year to bring people together. David O'Brien's Trivia Quizzes tease the brain; generate healthy competition and always provides lots of laughs. This year's French Night was a testimony to the creativity of our members in terms of food and entertainment, especially the Can-Can item! It was a night of great merriment. It is the Newsletter Team who watch over the life of our U3A and each term gives they produce a retrospective summary of key events. We thank all those unsung heroes who volunteer to bring us these times to enjoy each other's company.*

*I wish to especially acknowledge Valerie McPhee who will retire this year after 7 years as our Office Manager. Valerie worked tirelessly to ensure the office functioned efficiently and in our members' interest. Over time Valerie also recruited new Office Volunteers (OV's) and looked after their training. As well as this very time-consuming responsibility, Valerie generously contributed to numerous sub committees such as Governance and Facilities and also the Committee of Management, where in 2017 she was Vice-President. Thank you very much Valerie and happy future travels. Another special person is Kevin Whiting who will retire after four years as our esteemed Treasurer. It goes without saying that Kevin has done a mighty job streamlining our fiscal arrangements and meticulously overseeing our budgets. Along with this contribution, Kevin has been an active contributor to the Executive of the Committee of Management and the Membership Sub Committee. A super job Kevin; you go with our best wishes and thanks. A special awards and recognition afternoon will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> November to celebrate the work of our tutors and those volunteers who have made a significant contribution to U3A.*

*On reflecting back over this past year since I was elected as President in August 2022, I feel very much the privilege of leading such a dynamic organization. It is humbling to see the input of others, in terms of time, energy, creativity and active problem solving. I would like to thank my immediate colleague, Vice President Milena Maranville for her support, expertise and unwavering commitment to U3A Banyule. I wish also to acknowledge those who have also shared the leadership journey, Margaret Jack, our Secretary, Kevin Whiting and Sharon Karasmanis as part of the executive. Again, to all of the Committee of Management, thank you for your time, energy and vision.*

*Acknowledgment and thanks also go to the 13 members who act in 'Support Roles' to help with the many diverse aspects contributing to U3A Banyule's functionality. Their contribution is vital and valued. No one in our organization is remunerated for their work. Those who volunteer do so because they believe strongly in what U3A Banyule stands for. Their efforts, no matter how big or small, make a difference. I sincerely thank our volunteers but also to all of you, our members, we are grateful for your goodwill and support.*

*Judith Craze, President U3A Banyule*

*26 August 2023*

## **5. Adoption of the 2022/2023 Annual Report**

Motion: That the U3A Banyule Annual Report of the Committee of Management for 2022-2023 be adopted.

Moved: Judith Craze

Seconded: Margaret Jack

Carried

## **6. Financial Report for 2022/2023**

Kevin presented the Statement of Financial Position as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 that showed Total Equity of \$173,514 compared to last year \$66,382. A bequest of \$100,000 from a former member is the majority of the improvement, and \$5,500 was due to improved performance.

The Statement of Financial Performance shows a profit of \$5,500 as we benefited from the post-Covid recovery with an increase in membership numbers. Expenses are also up, partly due to more classes required for the extra members, but mainly due to increased charges for venues.

Kevin mentioned the Supplementary Notes that make up the Financial Report and invited members to read them at leisure to satisfy themselves that the financial affairs are being well managed.

## **7. Acceptance of the Financial Report for 2022/2023**

Motion: That we accept as true and accurate the U3A Banyule 2022/2023 Financial Report as presented.

Moved: Kevin Whiting

Seconded: Milena Maranville

Carried

## 8. Membership Fees 2024

The committee of management recommended an increase to annual membership fees for 2024. Kevin advised this is primarily due to rising venue costs. Banyule Council will raise their venue rates by approx. 19% in 2024 and other venues are expected to also raise their rates.

Membership Type	Period	Fee
Ordinary Membership	Full Year	\$55
Associate Membership	Full Year	\$45
Ordinary Membership	Second Half	\$45
Associate Membership	Second Half	\$45

## 9. Approval of Membership Fees 2024

Motion: That the Annual Subscription fee for 2024 be set at \$55 for full members and \$45 for associate members.

Moved: Kevin Whiting                      Seconded: Judith Craze                      Carried

Motion: That the half year subscription fee for 2024 be set at \$45 for full and associate members.

Moved: Kevin Whiting                      Seconded: Noni Crowther                      Carried

Judith thanked Kevin for astutely managing the U3A finances over the past year and the preceding two years, he has done a fantastic job.

## 10. Committee of Management 2023

Judith Craze thanked every member of the committee of management and the support role members for their work over the past year, stating that she could not have managed in her role as President without each and every one of them – for their thought, energy and vision they contributed to U3A Banyule. She greatly valued the personal support given during yet another exceptionally full year. These people are often unseen but are U3A's champions.

Judith declared all Committee of Management positions vacant and handed over to Vice President Milena Maranville.

## 11. Election of Office Bearers for 2023/2024

Nominations were sought for each of the Office Bearer positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

The Secretary received all nominations for these positions by the specified closing date for nominations and in accordance with the Rules of the Association. Each Office Bearer position is held from the AGM 2023 until the AGM in 2024.

One nomination was received for the position of President, the person nominated was Judith Craze. As there was no other nomination, Milena declared that Judith Craze was duly elected, then congratulated and thanked her also for her service in the past year.

Milena advised that one nomination was received for each of the following Office Bearer positions:

Position	Nominee
Vice President	Janet Ringrose
Treasurer	John Wallis
Secretary	Margaret Jack

As there were no other nominations for Office Bearer positions, these members were declared elected for 2023/2024. Milena thanked them for their service and wished them well in their roles.

Milena passed the meeting back to Judith who said it had been an honour and a privilege to undertake the role of U3A Banyule President over the past year, albeit a steep learning curve. She said 2024 will be another year of happy challenges but is confident in the calibre of our members who will ensure positive outcomes for U3A Banyule. Judith congratulated Janet, John and Margaret and is looking forward to working closely with them.

## 12. Election of Ordinary Committee Members 2023/2024

Judith Craze advised of the following nominations for ordinary committee members for 2023/2024.

Position	Nominee
Course Coordinator	Sharon Karasmanis
Course Information Officer & Venue Coordinator	Tania Rostan
My U3A Administrator	Heather Stephens
U3A Network Victoria Delegate	Dianne Williamson
Office Manager	Inge Kearney
Technology Coordinator	Willem Roodenburg
Volunteer Coordinator	Milena Maranville
Privacy and Data Security Officer	Bee Mitchell-Dawson
Minute Secretary	Noni Crowther

As there were no other nominations for these positions, those people listed above were declared elected. Judith congratulated these members.

## 13. Appointment of Support positions 2022/2023

There are members who take on vital "Support Roles" and their positions are approved by the Committee of Management. Judith acknowledged their efforts and thanked them all.

Allan Marks	Janice Kelly	Penny Braybrook
Barb Sekules	Marg Fievez	Pat Gutierrez
Maxine Marks	Milena Maranville	Fiona Wilson
Mary Wilson	Sue Beshara	Liz Waud
Dianne Williamson	Joan Learmont	Michael Maguire
Samuel Ariatnam		

## 14. Awards

Kate Thwaites, Jagajaga MP, presented awards during the year to the following members:

Marg Fievez

Sharon Karasmanis

Andrew Lees

Michael Maguire

Judith congratulated all the recipients.

### **Significant Service Awards**

Teresa Alfonso  
Pat Amor  
Maria Axarlis-Coulter  
Elaine Bateman  
Paule Cartwright  
Nancy Cornwallis  
Audrey Davies  
Julie Marshall  
Elsa McCarthy  
Helen McKinnon  
Joyce Parsons  
Catherine Prowse  
Lucille Sadler  
Heather Stephens  
Helen Cochrane  
Elizabeth Drummond

Judith congratulated these members and thanked them for the wonderful things they have done for U3A Banyule over several years. They will be acknowledged at a function later in the year.

### **Life Membership**

Awarded to members in recognition of their tireless work and contribution to U3A Banyule.

### **Milena Maranville**

Milena was thanked for her tireless work and her support as Vice-President. She has held many roles in the organisation including Secretary, President, Vice President, executive member of CoM, Convenor of the Governance sub-committee, member of the Facilities sub-committee, led the implementation of the first Strategic Plan, Office Volunteer and more – a huge commitment to U3A Banyule.

### **Kevin Whiting**

A super effort from Kevin over the past three years for streamlining the management of U3A's finances. In addition to being Treasurer he has been a member of the Executive of CoM, a member of the Governance & Membership sub-committees, lecture facilitator and performer at the French night!

While they are stepping back from some of their roles, Milena will continue as the Volunteers Co-ordinator and Convenor of the Governance sub-committee; and Kevin will continue on the Membership sub-committee & provide statistics.

## **15. Retiring Members of the Committee of Management**

Judith also thanked other members who are retiring from their roles.

Committee of Management – Valerie MacPhee, John Kennedy and Julie Vomero

Support Roles – Pat Amor and Maria Axarlis-Coulter

Valerie has been a champion, serving as Office Manager for 13 years, Vice President for 3 years and as a member of the Governance & Facilities sub-committees.

Judith commented that it was a pleasure to have so many members present gave a big thank you to everyone for giving up their time to attend the meeting. Whether members meet via Zoom or in person their support and loyalty is greatly valued.

Judith thanked invited guests from the Banyule City Council for attending the meeting and for their support. She also thanked Valerie, Joan, Michael and Willem for their assistance at the meeting; and Secretary Margaret Jack for her work behind the scenes.

Judith mentioned the Annual Forum that will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> November at the Heidelberg Golf Club. There will be great speakers and a lovely afternoon tea. More information to come in the coming weeks.

Judith concluded the AGM by saying it had been a privilege to report on the many highlights and challenges, and looked forward to the future optimistically as there is a great team in place to lead U3A Banyule again, then thanked everyone for attending.

Webinar concluded 10.44am.