

C/o Gladstone Park  
Community Centre  
13 South Circular Road,  
Gladstone Park 3043  
Postal Address:  
PO Box 2057  
Gladstone Park 3043

Website: [www.humeu3a.org.au](http://www.humeu3a.org.au)  
Email: [secretary@humeu3a.org.au](mailto:secretary@humeu3a.org.au)  
ARN: A0032685W  
Tel: (03) 9330 3239



**A word from the President:**

Dear Members

Thank you to the 20 plus members who attended our U3A Hume Annual General Meeting held on August 4<sup>th</sup> 2023. A special thanks to the Line Dancers who gave up their class in order to attend.

For your information, a **Summary of the Annual Report** year ending June 30<sup>th</sup> 2023 has been included in this newsletter.

At the meeting a big thankyou was extended to our Committee for their contribution last year and their willingness to once again stand for office if no new members nominated.

As it turns out their services were required again for the next year. However there was some good news with **Anton Godressi** from Line Dancing class nominating for the vacant position of Vice President for the ensuing year with a view to being appointed President in 2024. Also, **Anne De Gabrielle** will return to the role of Social Secretary with assistance from Committee member **Pat Blundell**.

**The Committee for 2023/24 is as follows:**

Geoff Mackay	President	Anton Godressi	Vice-President
Harry Safstrom	Secretary	Marilyn Rohweder	Membership Officer
Julie McPherson	Treasurer	Anne de Gabrielle	Social Secretary
Peter Lazarus	Webmaster	Pat Blundell	Asst Social Secretary
Jenny Brodie	Newsletter Editor		

Amongst the many challenges for the committee next year is to **improve our financial position**. We simply cannot continue to run our organisation at an operating loss of around \$6000 per annum. With increased membership fees, Government grants, sausage sizzles and raffles our income should improve to cover our increased expenditure. However we still need to consider how we can lower class costs through more efficient operations and our need to negotiate lower rentals for classrooms.

*Geoff Mackay,  
President Hume U3A*

## 2023 -2024 U3A Hume Committee



**L to R:** Harry Safstrom, Secretary; Anne de Gabrielle, Social Secretary; Julie McPherson, Treasurer; Geoff Mackay, President; Anton Godressi, Vice-President; Marilyn Rohweder, Membership Officer

**Absent:**



Pat Blundell Committee Member  
Assistant Social Secretary



Jenny Brodie  
Newsletter Editor

## Summary of Annual Report

### Membership

Our membership numbers over the past **five** years:-

As at 30 <sup>th</sup> June	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Females	215	210	224	170	169
Males	45	47	51	42	41
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>260(32)</b>	<b>257 (35)</b>	<b>275 (36)</b>	<b>212 (34)</b>	<b>210 (36)</b>

(Note: the number of free subscriptions is shown in brackets)

Whilst it is pleasing to report that we have had **34 new members** join our U3A since **1<sup>st</sup> July 2022** our overall figures are still down at around **210 members** compared to pre-COVID figures of around **260 members**. This **decrease of 20%** is comparable with most U3A organisations across Victoria.

### Financial Report

For the financial year ending **30<sup>th</sup> June 2023** we have to report that we have recorded an **Operating Loss of \$ 6062 Total Expenses \$19857 Income \$13795**.

Once again we have experienced an operating loss due mainly to the increase in expenditure and lower income due to loss of membership fees during COVID-19.

Whilst the cost of renting classrooms has not increased, we have fewer members to pay this

major part of our expenditure. Classroom Rental costs were **\$15846**, and we only collected **\$9540** from membership fees.

At present we are trying to negotiate with Local Government to review our rental costs for the hire of premises such as the rooms at the Gladstone Park Community Centre.

During the forthcoming Financial Year, we anticipate an increase in our income due to an application to the Hume Council for a grant of \$1500, the re-introduction of the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle and an increase in the number of raffles.

### **Membership Fees**

In view of the continued on-going operating loss of around **\$6000 per annum** the Committee has decided to increase the membership fees to **\$60 per annum for 2024**.

### **Future Challenges**

- To improve our day-to-day operational requirements by filling the vacant positions of Course Co-Ordinator and Office Manager. We have had to endure another year without a Course Co-Ordinator and an Office Manager which makes the running of day-to-day operations very difficult. A special thanks to Marilyn Rohweder for taking on these additional roles over the past year
- To improve our marketing strategies and attract new members and create new courses where possible.
- The Committee will be placing emphasis on improving our financial situation by reviewing our classroom rental costs and trying to negotiate lower charges with the Hume Council.
- An ongoing challenge is to recruit new Committee members to replace those wishing to stand aside after many years of voluntary contribution.



To book your seat  
at the table...  
Call Pat on  
0400 092 027

## ***From Our Social Secretary: Dine Out***

***When:*** Friday August 25<sup>th</sup>  
***Where:*** Noble Palace,  
83 Wheatsheaf Road Glenroy  
***Time:*** 6 pm

***When:*** Friday September 22<sup>nd</sup>  
***Where:*** Pascoe Vale RSL  
40 Cumberland Road, Pascoe Vale  
***Time:*** 6 pm

***When:*** Friday October 27<sup>th</sup>  
***Where:*** Fiesta Family Restaurant  
217 Mickleham Road, Tullamarine  
***Time:*** 6 pm



Our July Dine Out luncheon at the Club in Craigieburn was enjoyed by those who attended.



Reminder to all that our next Sausage Sizzle event is on

**Saturday August 12<sup>th</sup>**

While a number of our volunteers have already signed up for the upcoming event there is always room for others who are keen to participate.

To Register your interest : email Marilyn at [membership@humeu3a.org.au](mailto:membership@humeu3a.org.au)

### Christmas in July with Huff 'n' Puff



What a way to welcome in the new term with Christmas in July. Some aerobic exercise followed by food a cuppa and a chat. Not a bad way to spend Monday morning.





Our deepest sympathy to Anne De Gabrielle and family on the passing of Andy.

Andy was a U3A member for many years and contributed to and was involved in many of our activities.

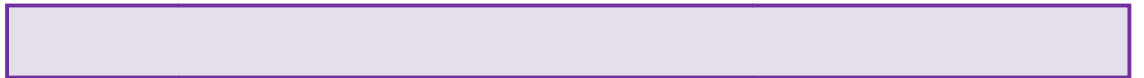


### U3A Hume Vale Past President Fred van Ross



It is with a sad heart that we inform you of the passing of Fred van Ross. Fred was a U3A member who contributed to and was involved in many of our activities. He was U3A President from 2014 to 2016, ran computer classes for U3A Hume and was instrumental in U3A Hume's move to GPCC. Fred also served on the GPCC Committee, Dallas Primary School committee and Essendon Parkinson's Group.

Our deepest sympathy to his wife Christine and family.



*Guess who is celebrating a Matilda's win?  
Hats off to Margaret Skellet.*



### Seniorism.....

As I watch this generation try and rewrite our history, I'm sure of one thing: It will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

I want to be 18 again and ruin my life differently. I have new ideas.

## Winter Trip North 2023



Away we go. Home on wheels for a few months

We have been on the road for six weeks and our August newsletter comes to you from Goomboorian, near Gympie.

We travelled north via Mildura and Wentworth to reach Broken Hill. A town built on mining but tourism plays a large part in its survival today. We visited the Line of Lode, a memorial to those miners who lost their lives in the mines in the early days. It sits atop the current mines which produce massive quantities of lead, zinc and silver.

### Line of Lode memorial



Broken Hill (NSW) is on South Australian time. In the early days transport was quicker from Adelaide than Sydney, hence the time zone.



The city also had some amazing Federation style architecture.

Well known artists Pro Hart and Jack Absalom called Broken Hill home.

Visiting Silverton, the site of silver mine in the early days, is a must see if you go to Broken Hill. Today better known as a tourist attraction and for its role in the first Mad Max movie and the Mundi Mundi Bash with the hotel a popular watering hole.



Leaving Broken Hill we travelled through the small towns of Wilcannia, Nyngan and Walgett to arrive at Lightning Ridge. Once thriving towns today they service the local community and tourists. Without tourism a lot would simply not exist, but they all know how cook a meal and provide a weary traveller with a great coffee.



If you fancy staking a claim to mine opal then look for an old Bimble Box or Wild Orange tree. Their roots go deep to find water and apparently that's where the opal can be found. Good luck

Lightning Ridge has been on my bucket list for a long time so now it's ticked off the list.



It is best known for opal mining and there are opals for sale in abundance. The camps are dotted all over the ridges outside the town limits. As there are no building regulations dwellings are many and varied. Miners have used whatever they can find to build shelter often adding

to it as they can afford to.



Local artist John Murray built this home from any materials he could source locally and added rooms as he had the time and money.

Ron Canlin came to Lightning Ridge to mine for opals and it is said that in the decades he mined he earned \$27,000. He turned his skills to carving the soft rock within his underground mine and using only a butter knife and fork, he has created an underground

gallery of more than 800 carvings which became a tourist attraction that keeps giving to him more generously than opals ever did.



Finally entering Queensland we travelled through small country towns to arrive in Coolumboola Country just outside Miles. We spent a week at the Veterans Retreat, a bush park 15 kms from the main road in the bush and so quiet that all you could do was relax and wait for happy hour. Such a peaceful place.



## U3A Network Information on the Referendum



Annie Grigg  
President U3A Network Victoria

U3A Network Victoria has had some enquiries from members asking about how they might, and how other U3As, are approaching activities on the upcoming referendum.

### Our statement follows:

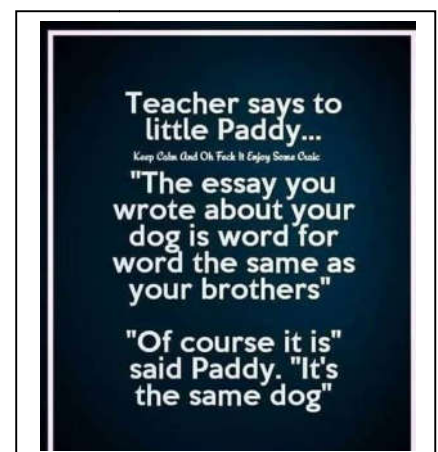
U3A is a welcoming place for all older Victorians, regardless of their gender, cultural background, ability, religion, or political beliefs. At the heart of the U3A movement is social connection and learning. Learning from one another and sharing. In the spirit of lifelong learning, U3A Network Victoria supports respectful discussion about the Voice to Parliament and the upcoming referendum.

U3A Network strives for older Victorians to have their voice heard by government and decision-makers, on issues that affect seniors. Network will not be making a political statement in support of, or against, the Voice to Parliament. The decision to offer courses or presentations about the referendum will be up to each U3A to decide for themselves.

Many U3As are using their websites, social media platforms, flyers or local newsletters to publicise their activities around learning about the Voice and the referendum. Most U3As want to help their members, and the senior's public, to learn more about indigenous history, about current issues for indigenous people, and about the mechanics and meaning of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, the Voice proposal, and the referendum.

This year the Voice question is providing the opportunity for U3As to step up and help the senior's public come to terms with the challenges and opportunities and to make up their own mind.

**Next edition:  
October 2023**



The Committee of Hume U3A would like to thank Maria Vamvakinou MP and her staff for the printing of this newsletter.