

Minutes 2021 Annual General Meeting Wednesday 10 March 2021

Meeting commenced: 10:10am

Welcome: Sue Fowler (President)

1. **Present:** Susan Fowler; Rosemary Jarvis; Carolyn Smith; Garry Clear; Penelope Murphy; Val Currie; Kaye Separovic; Patricia Dive; Heather Bond; Val Totterdell; Sue O'Loughlin; Paul Strutynski; Linda McMorrow; P. Goodwin; Ian Robertson; Sandra Coates; Christine Kaine; Fleur Dwyer; Michele Patten; Mary Balmain; Pat O'Hanlon; Pam Summerell; Margaret Nicholl; Chris Bembrick; Jenny Johnson; Barbara Simmons

Apologies: Elizabeth Stacey; Peter Colhoun; Wendy Colhoun; Eileen Pearson; Gavina Bailey; Katherine Wets; Bridgette O'Hanlon; Margaret: Evans; Jeannie Smith; Rod Nicholl

Proxies received: Sue Jellis; Elizabeth Zerbst (Secretary); Rosie Bunton (Linda McMorrow)

2. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 06 March 2020

Motion: That the minutes from the AGM on 6 March 2020 are accepted as true and accurate.

Moved: Ian Robertson Seconded: Sue O'Loughlin Carried

3. **President's Report** on the year to date: (attached)

4. **Annual Financial Report** (Chris Bembrick) – distributed to all members by email and post The consideration and adoption of the Annual Financial Report and audited balance sheet

Treasurer's Report:

Firstly, may I apologise that your emails were bombarded with two "audit" reports. The first which contained the financial statements inadvertently omitted the actual auditor's report – not my finest moment.

What a year! We started with a sense of euphoria having completed stage 1 of our building renovations in time for the start of term 1.

Then came Covid which wreaked havoc on our courses, mainly due to social distancing requirements.

As you are all aware whilst some courses transitioned to the Zoom online platform, the course schedule as a whole was thrown into disarray with most courses, particularly those held in the Tura Centre, suspended - sadly some may never return.

This of course affected our finances in that, while many of our fixed expenses still had to be met whether courses were operating or not, income from venue usage dried up completely.

Insurances, NSW network fees, software licences, internet, phone, council rates, website maintenance, postage & stationery and the like are basically fixed costs and showed no reduction due to the cessation of classes.

Surprisingly electricity charges, whilst a little lower than usual, did not decrease markedly as the larger part of our account is for supply rather than usage charges.

We were able to negotiate a temporary 50 % reduction in Tura Centre rent and reduced water consumption charges.

To repeat, although costs remained largely unchanged, revenue from TBC usage dried up completely.

You have all had the opportunity to read the financial statements so I will not go through them line by line.

Apart from Covid, the biggest single influence on the financial result for 2020 was the cost of stage 1 of the TBC renovations which amounted to some \$34,000 and largely occurred in 2020. The effect of renovation costs on the result for 2020 was mitigated to an extent by the decision to amortise those costs over the 11 year period of the lease, as recommended by our auditors.

To summarise, at year's end our current or cash assets were reduced by \$33,190.93 but, after allowing for amortisation of the renovation costs, the result for the year was a small loss of \$2,412.90.

Motion: That the Annual Financial Report and audited balance sheet are accepted.

Moved: Carolyn Smith Seconded: Margaret Nicholl Carried

> Thank you: Ian Robertson

Thank you, Chris, for the awesome job you've done over the last 5 years. Your guidance was appreciated and your efforts are applauded (Chris: Thank you for the opportunity)

Thank you: Margaret Nicoll

Thank you on behalf of Team Office – your assistance has been really appreciate and you will be missed

5. Appointment of an Auditor for 2021

Motion: That an audit will need to take place as a new treasurer will be appointed this year. Tanner and Sault recommended as they are the current auditor and have done a good job.

Moved: Chris Bembrick Seconded: Carolyn Smith Carried

- 6. **Special Resolution:** That subsection (3) of Section 17 [Composition and membership of the Committee] be deleted from the U3A Sapphire Coast Constitution
 - Michele Patten: no problem with the motion however the Act requires a time frame this needs to be addressed
 - Proposal: Replace clause with Model Rules clause: "Subsection 3, Section 17 There will be no maximum number of consecutive terms
 - Ian Robertson: A motion can't be amended without proper notice.

Speakers for and against Resolution

- ➤ Ian Robertson (against): spoke last year against the motion and re-iterates
 - Pros and cons for fixed periods
 - Current ruling stops people from serving longer than 3 years & there may be no replacement.
 - Vice President and Secretary resigned during the year at end of 3 year terms and were re-appointed by casual vacancy which restarted the clock for a three year term
 - A motion can be put forward to AGM for reappointment if no other nomination is made for position.
 - Psychologically a three-year time frame fixes in the mind of the nominee that commitment is for a maximum of three years –
 - Committee members don't stay in a position for too long.
 - A fixed period has a positive effect.
 - There is no right or wrong way to address the situation.
 - Removing the subsection is not going to achieve what it sets out to achieve.

Amendment: as suggested by Michele will not proceed this point as a copy of the Act is unavailable

Note: If the Constitution is silent on a matter then the Model Rules will take effect.

The Constitution requires an update.

- Michele Patten (for)
 - This resolution has been proposed for two years and strongly supported by the committee.
 - Allows committed, experienced people to continue in the job.
 - Provides continuity and ongoing corporate knowledge.
 - We can change things by Special Resolution.
 - If people resign a 'casual vacancy' occurs 3 year term commences again
 - Members can remove a committee member at any time with good reason by having a Special General Meeting
 - Election is under total control of the meeting anyone can nominate for any position and only 1 person can be voted in
 - Strongly urge to vote in favour.

Patricia Goodwin (against)

- Thanks for summary
- Members can vote someone out disagreement on committee member results in bad feelings
- Members trying to get rid of committee members can cause division.
- 3-year limit should stay.
- Its not expedient to change the constitution.

Jenny Johnston (against)

- 3 year rule does not mean you are off the committee after 3 years can stay in position
- You are not required to leave the committee.

> Sue O'Loughlin (for)

- A rule that is in place and can be "got around" is not a good rule.
- Avoid the stress of "getting around" rules.
- If arguing against motion consider current lack of volunteers.
- Organisations should be able to operate efficiently with the least amount of stress.

> Fleur Dwyer

- An example of the difficulty of replacing committee members was finding new President: this took months and 41 phone calls before Sue finally said yes.
- This organisation exists for co-operation, for everyone's learning provision of programs for everyone.
- Arguments remain the same if there are no changes.

> Margaret Nicoll

- Team leader of Team Office
- Enjoys and loves what she does; Team Office is the best team to work with
- If someone wants to nominate it should be up to them how long they want to stay
- Time period should be a decision made by the individual.

Motion: That subsection (3) of Section 17 [Composition and membership of the Committee] be deleted from the U3A

Sapphire Coast Constitution

Moved: Garry Clear Seconded: Sue Fowler Carried by majority

(24 votes for motion / 5 against)

7. Election of Officers and members for the U3A SC Management Committee for 2021 Retuning Officer: Sue O'Loughlin

Position	Nominee	Nominated by	Seconded by
President	Susan Fowler	Linda McMorrow	Margaret Nicoll
Vice President	Garry Clear	Chris Bembrick	Carolyn Smith
Treasurer	Katherine West	Susan Fowler	Carolyn Smith
Secretary & Public Officer	Carolyn Smith	Chris Bembrick	Susan Fowler
Team Leader – Office & Administration	Margaret Nicoll	Linda McMorrow	Susan Fowler
Team Leader – Programs' Team	Linda McMorrow	Rosie Bunton	Sue O'Loughlin
Health & Wellbeing			
'Covid Officer'			
General Committee			
General Committee			

All nominations accepted unopposed.

Nomination: General Committee: Paul Strutynski

Nominated: Sue O'Loughlin Seconded: Sue Fowler Elected unanimously

> Positions of Health and Wellbeing Officer (Covid Officer) and one General Committee position unfilled

- Linda McMorrow: We need a **Covid Officer** in order to function properly Health Department Updates change constantly, and we need to be aware of these so that we are complying with these.
 - Michele is happy to purchase supplies for Covid safe practices.
 - Team Office will ensure that appropriate paperwork is supplied.

8. Other Business: Nil

Meeting closed 11am