

U3A Townsville Inc.
Minutes from Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 26th
March at 10.00a.m. at Senior Citizens Welfare Association, Ryan
Street Belgian Gardens.

(Note: these minutes have not been ratified)

President Pauline Woodbridge welcomed the members attending and offered her appreciation for the numbers attending, especially those who were standing up.

She declared the 2024 AGM open with a quorum being achieved.

Present:

Pauline Woodbridge, Larry Frazer, John Webster, Alan Williams, Christine Titmus, Lorraine Ryrle, Antonia Gerrard, Kate Eagling, Lutz Jacoby, Georgina Valdeter, Peter & Lori Hurst, Nanette Grace, Norman Rains, Alison Ware, Diana Bird, Gail Pearson, Lorna Mead, Anne Atkinson, Kathy Joyce, Angela Ward, Trish Jordan, Ruth Bradshaw, Noreen Scott, Brian Gilshenan, Manuella English, Bruce Muller, Noreen Letizia, Phil Young, Ewe Khoo, Kloudya Pollard, Christine Douglas, Graham Eden, Antonia Jenkins, Sue Tomkins, Marjory Cook, Michele Cloonan, Lavinia Berry, Brian Furby, Sue Dellow, Monika Hutter-Gibson, Eileen Healy, Terry Fittler, Kent Sutton, David Browning, Judy and Colin Ecuyer, David Wharton, Catherine Smith, Janice Davies, Ray Hatton, John Packer, Spud Dinning, Wendy and Bill Simpkins, Sandra Smith, Cam Leitch, Bev Murdoch, **Mary Simet, Lavinia Berry, Therese Duff** (non-members)

Apologies:

Marie Radford, Marg Winter, Julia Hazel, Pat Cornford, Diana Bird, Coral Dews, Marg Winter, Judy Hunter, Linda Fraser, Jeannie Hicks, Graham and Mary Collins, Norena Mendiolea, Judy Lonergan, Rita Tomba, Debra Shore, Barb Strickland, David Glasgow, Lynn Jacoby, Patricia Walsh, Nicky Huxley, Judy Knox, Carol Hutton, Pat Frazer, Ruth Hughes.

Confirmation of the minutes of the 2023 AGM held on 15th March 2024

The minutes were deemed a true and correct record. Moved Alan Williams/Seconded Christine Titmus.
Carried

President's Report (Full report attached to these minutes)

- Synopsis of the 2024-year month by month.
- Pauline advised the meeting that her report was written before the issues encountered at TSCWA. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers later after the AGM.

Moved Pauline Woodbridge/Seconded Christine Titmus that the President's report be accepted.
Carried.

Treasurer's Report

The financials for the year ended December 2024 were presented to the meeting via PowerPoint.

Transaction Account \$33,060

Debit Card \$273

Petty Cash Account \$100

Fixed term deposit \$7,935 (expires in May 2025)

Interest received on Fixed Term Deposit \$276

Current Assets \$41,369.34 and the overall U3A's Net Position was \$6031.50.

An Independent Review Report was performed by Melissa Piotto from Findex Accounting even though there is no requirement for the financials to be audited.

Membership for 2024 was 494 as of 31st December 2024.

The \$40 membership subscriptions paid each year allows U3A Townsville to:

- Pay for its monthly rental invoice of \$1,292.50 to Colliers for the Vincent premises. Rent has been paid up to November 2024 and we are trying to close our ongoing dispute with Colliers and the Churches of Christ.
- Pay monthly Class Fees to Townsville Senior Citizens Association for the use of the Meeting Room that we have on their premises. This is to offset the power usage while classes are in progress.
- Maintain its annual membership with the U3A Network Queensland and paid \$300.00 for the 2024 period.
- Maintain its annual Insurance Public Liability coverage with the U3A Network Queensland and paid \$1,089.60 for the 1st of October 2024 to 30th September 2025 coverage period.
- Maintain its annual Copyright licence coverage with the U3A Network Queensland and paid \$170.00 for the 1st of July 2024 to 30th June 2025 coverage period.
- Maintain its annual OneMusic licence coverage with the U3A Network Queensland and paid \$170.00 for the 1st of July 2024 to 30th June 2025 coverage period.
- All Committee Members, Office staff and Tutors/Facilitators do so on a volunteer basis and are NOT paid for their services to U3A Townsville.

Larry explained the annual Copyright licence which U3A Townsville pays to U3A Network Queensland: and explanation of the One Music Licence.

There was a question from the floor regarding the fixed term deposit and why more funds hadn't been invested. Larry advised that once it matures this will be the time to consider increasing the investment.

A member asked if CoC building was still on the market. This was answered in the affirmative.

Moved Larry Frazer, seconded Alan Williams that the financials be accepted. Carried.

Ratification of the decision of the Committee to maintain the annual membership fee of \$40 for 2025.

Larry moved the request for ratification of the decision of the Committee to set the membership fee at \$40 for all members for 2025 and to vary the membership fee for 2026 if necessary. Seconded Kent Sutton. Carried.

Election of Office Bearers for 2024

Pauline informed the meeting that many resignations have occurred on the committee this year for various reasons, so she welcomes any new members who wish to join the committee which runs very cohesively and meets all its obligations.

Two retiring committee members are Alan Williams who served 24 years on the committee, his last position being Vice President; and Graham Collins who served 21 years. Thank you to both gentlemen.

Peter Hurst welcomed all attendees and declared the present committee dissolved.

He then proceeded to read out all nominations.

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| President and Promotions | Pauline Woodbridge |
| Treasurer and Grants Coordinator | Larry Frazer |
| Secretary | Lorraine Rylie |
| Office Manager/Web Manager | Christine Titmus |
| Class Coordinator | Antonia Gerrard |
| Minor Maintenance | John Titmus |
| Committee Member | Trish Jordan |
| Committee Member | David Browning |

Nanette nominated Antonia Gerrard for Vice President; this was seconded by Trish Jordan. Carried.
Vice President Antonia Gerrard

All in favour for all other nominations as above.

Nanette Grace questioned the length of time that the executive can serve on the committee, and she was informed 5 years.

An Office Manager is still required to oversee the excellent work that the Office Volunteers perform each day in the Office. No one was forthcoming after two nominations were declined.

Thank you to everyone who has been re-elected and thank you to Peter for performing the election.

General Business

Acknowledgement of changes since President's Report was written.

Peter Hurst spoke to the meeting covering the following:

- He is no longer on the committee of TSCWA.
- While he was the President, David Wharton and himself looked at the possibility of moving U3A as co-locators into Ryan Street. A proposal was put up, all members of Seniors spoken to and work on the MOU started in 2023, and in 2024 it was formulated and signed. Subsequently U3A was given an office, and a training room was built inside the main hall.
- The new committee of TSWCA have recently engaged in bullying and misinformation which is disturbing, and Peter favours legal action. Some U3A members are now members of TSWCA.
- Christine Titmus advised that U3A membership was about 500 and TSCWA membership about 100 members, and perhaps the TSCWA members felt threatened.
- Seniors are facing declining membership; many older residents are now living in aged care facilities and taking advantage of the social activities on offer.
- No acknowledgment of U3A payments to TSCWA for membership has been forthcoming, and they will now not process any more applications.

Since the 2024 AGM, U3A has faced various allegations, including claims of theft, such as items like toilet paper and a kettle, as well as damage to the electrical box. Additionally, one tutor was informed that her class was no longer permitted to use the library, and members have increasingly encountered challenges when using the kitchen. Larry shared his experience of being aggressively confronted in the kitchen, where he was sworn at and belittled. Although no official communication from the committee to the members regarding a ban on U3A's use of the kitchen has been issued, numerous members have reported negative and confrontational interactions.

Jenny Hill as Townsville Mayor made huge efforts to endeavour to get U3A to co-locate with TSCWA as there was no other suitable vacant office space in Townsville, especially with peppercorn rent.

Larry advised that he has been talking to Andrew Robinson from the Townsville City Council about the situation of undermining the MOU, and the ultimatum to pay or leave.

Pauline spoke to the meeting about the following:

- That she was asked to join the TSCWA committee, and she joined in the capacity of Vice President.
- At the end of February Paul Nuske attended the U3A committee meeting and informed U3A that the MOU needed to be redeveloped: U3A members who belong to TWSCA need to become Associate members instead of Full Members and Pauline needed to resign from the TWSCA committee due to a conflict of interest.
- Pauline then read from a document regarding the poll that TSCWA held to discuss the MOU. The comments and feedback received from Senior Citizen's members indicated they were unhappy with the fact they were not consulted or had a platform to voice their opinions in the development of the MOU, and that they did not know that the TSCWA office was being handed over to U3A leaving the association without an office. It was also stated on the document the terms U3A were to comply with including signing a 12-month lease and paying rent plus a \$65

hourly fee for use of TSCWA facilities and complying with the terms and conditions of the proposed lease agreement or relocate.

- U3A will move back to D4 CoC building in Vincent commencing 5th and 6th April; with large items being moved on 7th April, followed by cleaning and making good.

At this stage there was a query from the floor wanting confirmation that U3A pay nothing for the office space, power and training room. Peter explained the monetary change of funds.

There was discussion about the ownership of the buildings, and it was confirmed that TSCWA own the buildings. David Browning informed that the property belonged to the Federal Government; it was passed to the Townsville City Council, who lease it to TSWCA.

It was noted that there had been significant discussion around our duty of care to members. Christine effectively supported our decision to leave, particularly in response to some attendees advocating for defiance against the TSCWA executive despite their legal threats. This conversation highlighted the balance between standing firm in our principles and the need to prioritize our duty of care to members as well fulfilling our legal and ethical responsibilities.

Finally, appreciation was expressed for the thorough and professional recording of the discussions, ensuring compliance with legal requirements for the AGM.

David Browning submission

It was moved by David Browning that the submission he put forward which is noted on the agenda, be referred to the Committee Meeting and discussed this afternoon. Seconded Trish Jordan. Carried.

Strong discussion occurred as whether U3A should relocate or not.

Catherine Smith accolade

Catherine Smith, on behalf of U3A members, offered confidence and support for the Executive of U3A.

The meeting closed at 1125.

President's Report

U3A Annual General meeting, the last in my five-year term covers the period of our activities in 2024. It was at the last AGM I related the information about the work on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two committees and proceeded with the plans to relocate U3A to Senior Citizens in Belgian Gardens

Many of you will recall that a few years ago, the Mayor, Jenny Hill had been encouraging Senior Citizens in Ryan St and us to consider a plan to bring our two groups together in their building. She had expressed concern about the declining numbers using their TWSCA hall.

Representatives from both committees held many meetings in good faith to negotiate a suitable plan for both autonomous organisations with the view that both organisations would benefit from the co-location and sharing.

The Senior Citizens Committee have been very generous accommodating the changes needed and they understand our branch autonomy as a member of the Queensland U3A Network. Our 2024 members were asked to register a membership form for Senior Citizens and 85 members took up that opportunity.

Some highlights from the year are mentioned below.

March 2024

We held the AGM in the hall at TWSCA and the election process proceeded with nominated persons returned to the committee. We announced our plans to relocate and gave detailed information about where, when and what U3A will look like in that location.

The follow up committee meeting in March recorded that work on the changes required by the Association Incorporation Act were well in hand ensuring the dispute resolutions procedures, the remuneration disclosures (there isn't any to disclose) and the Audits and Tax Office requirements were met. It is good to be up to date and compliant.

A bulk email was sent to all members updating the plans to co-locate to Ryan St. Publicity about change to address was published through Triple T radio and in the Community Notices in the Townsville Bulletin. There were no negative responses about the location to date. A meeting is to be arranged to advance to the signing of the MOU by the elected executive of each organisation.

April 2024

The committee were tasked with updating the assets register, sending out the newsletter and new classes were planned. A moving schedule was developed and the timing for the full move to be end of June.

May 2024

Michael Taylor and Sheena Nuske from TWSCA attended the May meeting. A working bee was arranged to tidy up items to be packed and moved. Pauline and Larry attended the Qld U3A Network conference in Beaudesert. Planning with Tutors for the transfer of classes. Pauline to attend the next TWSCA committee meeting. A talk about U3A and SC, will be presented to the Probus Club.

June 2024

The June committee meeting was held at the Vincent office. Larry advised that the Computer Workshop had completed the move to the new office at Ryan St. The cost for cabling is \$600 and the cost for the moving of phones was \$2400. Christine updated our information on the website. Christine also sent out a bulk email to announce our first Friday Talk for 2024, to be held at the Wildlife Centre on the 28 of June. Because of the move our Friday Talks series started later than usual and will continue weekly until November. Larry continued to monitor and apply for appropriate grants to assist the continuation of the branch such as covering the cost of envelopes and stamps for the distribution of the newsletter.

July 2024

July is the first committee meeting in the new classroom, and we welcomed Sheena Nuske and Michael Taylor from TWSCA who were once again guests.

It was gratifying to have so many members volunteer their time to help with the move from Vincent, and to settle into Ryan St. Pauline, U3A and Michael from TWSCA did a live on-air interview about the co-location on TripleT radio. Very positive feedback was received.

U3A and Senior Citizens committees continued to negotiate and develop many aspects and processes to ensure the co-location works smoothly and benefits both organisations. Issues such as joint memberships, use of the kitchen, fire safety, fire extinguishers, keys, parking, rubbish bins and cleaning were agreed upon, as each item gradually got sorted out. Planning for the U3A stall at the TCC Seniors Lifestyle Expo and bookings made. We offered shared space on our stall to Senior Citizens.

August 2024

This month's committee meeting included Su Mijic from Magnetic Island U3A. Su indicated she was not sure about being the MI co-ordinator at this stage. Brian Furby was unwell and taking a step back. Su requested support with the costs of bringing speakers from Townsville for Monday Talks. In discussion with Antonia Class Co-ordinator, arrangements were made with the ferry company to provide some free ferry tickets to U3A Magnetic Island.

We planned to run Friday Talks at our U3A venue at Ryan Street from August to November. This meant we left the very good arrangement we had at the Wildlife Carers venue. We were very grateful for that location over the previous years. A small team continued to develop a list of speakers for each weekly session. And we continue promoting Friday Talks through Triple T with a weekly community announcement introducing the guest speaker.

We promoted our organisation and contact details through the TCC community resource directory and update it annually. The Seniors Expo was great fun with U3A and Senior Citizens reps kept busy with handing out leaflets and resources while talking about our organisations to the many people who approached our stall.

The class co-ordinator reported that classes were settling in after a few difficulties and teething problems.

Lorraine U3A and Warren TWSCA performed an audit on the number of U3A members who became members of Senior Citizens. Accordingly, an invoice needs to be raised for payment to TWSCA for \$850 as per 85 joint members at \$10 each, The U3A \$2.00 class fees are also paid monthly to Senior Citizens.

September 2024

Antonia and I asked Su to set up a U3A MI member meeting to talk about the points raised by Su in August. We eventually met with some members, clarified some points and heard lots

about the different environment faced by the group. We outlined the type of practical support we can provide. On later consideration, Su wrote to say she is unable to commit the time needed for the group to move forwards. The committee thanked Su and the members and reiterated our support for them where possible. A subsequential visit to Magnetic Island was made by Larry and Pauline with Larry presenting a power point of U3A information including the Queensland U3A Network. He talked about the Australian Licences held by the network we require to enable our organisation to legally use music or video, etc. in our classes. Agreement was reached in terms of a \$20.00 membership for visitors who own property on the Island and who holiday for long periods who are interested in attending U3A activities on the Island.

Several grant applications have been prepared, mainly to support the newsletter production costs as well as Admin office supply costs.

Xmas closure dates set for 13th of December until 13th Jan. These dates comply with Senior Citizens who are planning maintenance and cleaning of the SC Hall.

October 2024

The committee welcomed Brian Furby from U3A Magnetic Island. Committee members offered various types of practical support to him and the members. Brian thanked Antonia for arranging the ferry tickets, they are helpful in his role of co-ordinating Monday Talks speakers.

It has been gratifying to see the Friday Talks attendance grow. Feedback that the Ryan St classroom works very well. The sessions were well supported by a wide variety of speakers.

The Townsville thank you lunch for Tutors and other volunteers was held at the Toms Tavern. A large participation by members enjoyed the venue and opportunity to catch up.

The committee were grieved with the news of the passing of Jenny Sebba. Jenny has long been involved with the U3A committee in several roles: the most recent as Assistant Treasurer. It was through the connections Jenny had with Wildlife Carers, that we were able to use their excellent venue for Friday Talks. She is missed by the committee. Several members attended a memorial held for her.

November 2024

Friday talks had its final session in November, ending our interesting program of speakers many of whom were U3A members themselves.

Magnetic Island group planned a Xmas event in December and sent an invitation to Townsville office Antonia and I indicated our attendance.

This is the last meeting for the year, we are leaving the leaving our classroom and Admin office for the break and look forward to reconvening in Jan 2025. I would like to acknowledge the commitment from all the committee members who steered us through MOU and the co-location changes, the volunteer time provided by Tutors, coordinators, committee and general members who got us settled into Ryan St and together made the Townsville branch to continue to function so well in Belgian Gardens.

To end this report, I pay a hearty tribute to all the Committee members who govern our Branch with diligence and good faith. Also, a big thank you to all our members whose loyalty keeps the whole organisation vibrant, viable and worthwhile.