



# FOCUS

## Newsletter March 2020

Welcome to 2020!

Term 1 of another busy U3A year is under way, with 39 courses on offer this term, which runs from 17th February to 1<sup>st</sup> May. You are also encouraged to participate in additional special events from time to time. The first this term is:

### HEARING HEALTH

You are invited to attend a presentation scheduled for Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 3pm, Banksia Centre Room B to discuss hearing health, addressing specifically, the causes of hearing loss, tinnitus and outlining the range of listening devices available to assist.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 3.30 pm in The Banksia Centre, Pitcairn Street, Port Sorell.

Notices and associated documents such as nomination forms for the AGM are currently being mailed and being made available on our website by clicking the following link.

### [AGM 2020 Documents](#)

Please look for them, and come to the meeting with any questions or comments you may have. New committee members will be elected at the meeting. A brief description of positions which need to be filled by the newly elected committee members is available from the office.

Also, on this page we have posted notice and details of a proposed Special Resolution to be presented at the AGM. This resolution relates to some proposed minor administrative changes to our constitution. It is important that members are familiar with what is proposed. We ask that you click on the following links to view and consider.

### [Notice of Special Resolution](#)

### [Information on the Special Resolution](#)

For this resolution to pass at the meeting, it requires 75% of members attending the meeting to vote in favour.

The AGM will be followed by a General Meeting, planned to start at 4.00 pm. Please note that agenda items for the General Meeting need to be advised in writing by Wednesday 18 March. Please advise Libby at the U3A office of any agenda items.

From the president:

### **U3A Committee**

Our AGM is coming up and we are looking for an injection of new blood into the Committee. This is because our constitution has required that several members of the current committee retire.

That is, rule 21.5 states that *“no committee member shall be elected for more than two consecutive terms [of two years each] excepting in extraordinary circumstances when an office cannot be filled”*.

This rule, drafted by the initial committee and ratified by the membership, was included in the constitution to ensure that a regular infusion of new skills and ideas into the committee makes for a healthy organisation. There is ample evidence that a regular infusion of new skills and ideas into a committee helps an organisation stay relevant and forward looking.

Thus, rule 21.5 ensures that we get the best of both worlds; we get new energetic people, we get their ideas and skills, and we retain the ongoing support and organisational knowledge of those who previously served on the committee. In many cases retiring members will choose to actively support U3A through membership of sub-committees, and working groups and as advisors to the committee.

U3A is a community learning and social co-operative and its future is the responsibility of the community, especially its members, and not just the few who started it or now serve on the committee.

Rule 21.5 also ensures that the committee will not “stagnate” as a consequence of a particular committee position being occupied by the one person over a period of many years. It will also ensure that a member wishing to volunteer for a committee position will not be reluctant to nominate for these long-held positions. This rule also guarantees that members will not feel pressured to stay in positions because of the perception that there is “no one else who can do the job”.

It should be noted that all of the retiring members of the committee have made valuable and important contributions to the success of Port Sorell U3A and I acknowledge that some have been disappointed by the constitutional requirement to retire however, we are looking forward to an exciting couple of years with a new committee, a revised strategic plan, and some exciting innovations.

It is a great time to become involved! If you would like to know more and perhaps consider nominating for the Port Sorell U3A committee please contact me directly, or the office at Banksia Centre.

With regards

Tony Harris  
President

### **Volunteer - Secretary - Port Sorell U3A**

At U3A Port Sorell, like a lot of community groups, we are always on the lookout for volunteers with passion who would love to support one of the largest U3A groups in Tasmania.

If you have a passion for being organised, to use your talents and skills for good, to meet others in the community, and to work for a community organisation that you believe in, then we have a role for you that will become available at our next AGM.

The role of the Secretary cannot be underestimated in its importance, not just to the committee, but to the ongoing success of the U3A at Port Sorell. This role will form part of the executive.

Your role would include:

- Working with the president to produce the meeting agendas,
- Taking the minutes of committee meetings,
- Dealing with correspondence and bringing relevant issues to the attention of the president.

Your involvement would be approximately 4 hours a week and at some times of the year could be up to 8 hours a week (AGM, beginning of Terms etc).

There are exciting times ahead! Port Sorell U3A is currently working on an innovative 4 year strategic plan and you would be a part of its creation and implementation.

If you think this is you then we would love to hear from you! If you are not sure, but are interested, we would still love to hear from you.

**Contact the U3A office between 10am and 12 noon, email at [mail@portsorellu3a.org.au](mailto:mail@portsorellu3a.org.au), or phone 0499 162 539**

Any articles or contribution you have for future editions of 'Focus', please forward to Gail Woodgate by 31st March to [mail@portsorellu3a.org.au](mailto:mail@portsorellu3a.org.au), marking it 'Attention Gail Woodgate, for Focus'.