

38th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING U3A BALLARAT INC.

Conducted at Ballarat North Community Centre at 2.00pm 21/8/2025.

MINUTES.

The Master of Ceremonies, John Olsen welcomed all and introduced the President Don Collins,

President Don opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country, and greeted our honoured guests; Michaela Settle MLA the member for Eureka, as well as Cr. Jim Rinaldi and Cr. Ted Lapkin. City of Ballarat staff were represented by Cathy Bushell, Lee Bennett and Vivian Meng. U3A Network was represented by Kylie Gerber.

A stunning musical presentation by the U3A Ballarat Chorale and soloists followed.

Michaela Settle gave us an understanding of the scope and variety of her job in Eureka and was able to explain her role and make a tribute to Geoff Howard, our active U3A member, where she ran for and won the elected seat from replicating his many re-elections.

Don Collins then made a presentation of Life Memberships to Elena Tommasi, Carolie Kerry and Fran O'Halloran.

The Meeting of Members was conducted by President Don Collins

1. Attendance 180 members signed the Attendance Sheets.
2. Apologies were received from:

Carolyn Bourke	Anne McKee
Kay Menzies	Nora Spitzer
Jill Sutherland	Caroline Waddington
Els Woesthuis	Doug Rutherford
Jenni Quinlan	Helen Besermers
Phil and Denise Grant	Lorraine Sorrell
Janeen Edward	Anne Rose
Colleen Noonan	Dale Dumpleton
Noeme & Alan McKinnon	Gayle Desnoy
Robert Hammond	Diane McBeath
Val Newman	Marg McDonald
Margaret Littlehales	Jan Low
Mary O'Driscoll	Sue Sidebottom
Jan North	Janene Edwards
Christine and Barry Hutton	

3. Minutes of the AGM on 22nd August 2024 were distributed prior to the meeting.
Moved; Ros McArthur Seconded; Bec Black Passed.
4. President's Report – Report distributed prior to meeting.

Annual General Meeting President's Report

Reflecting on Progress, Charting the Path Forward

Introduction

It is with great pride and a deep sense of responsibility that I present this year's President's Report to our guests and members gathered at this Annual General Meeting. This gathering is not only a statutory milestone, but also a symbolic reflection of our shared journey—a moment to pause, evaluate our progress, and lay the groundwork for the year ahead.

It is fitting to look back on the year gone by, celebrate our collective achievements, confront our challenges, and re-affirm our commitment to our mission and vision statements... statements that embody who we are as an organisation.

Organisational Highlights

Over the past year, U3A Ballarat has continued on its learning journey, connecting people and learning across the district of Ballarat. We have navigated life and learning challenges with an agility for which our age bracket is not necessarily known.

The increase in the number of members and the breadth and depth of learning on offer tells me that not only are we hitting the mark, in terms of learning and social needs in the Ballarat community, but also that members are recognising that they have the knowledge, skills and understanding to be a Tutor. Notably, we have:

- Expanded our programs and membership reaching a broader segment of our community. 30.6% of Ballarat Residents are over 55 and our membership figure equates to approximately 3.75% of that cohort... based on 2021 figures.
- Maintained our financial position, through prudent management
- Continued to foster meaningful partnerships with local and regional organisations, amplifying our collective voice and reach. We are the largest regional U3A in Victoria at 1300+ members.
- Embraced technology and digital innovation, by pivoting to Member Wizard to streamline operations and improve member services. Member Wizard gives members more agency over their data and access to the online environment.

Achievements and Milestones

It has been an exceptional year, thanks to the dedication of our members. The Blake Gordon Manual Arts Workshop aka The BGMAW on the Farm Campus of the Ballarat Specialist School (BSS) is now fully functional and I hear nothing but positive things from members who use the facility. Our thanks to the City of Ballarat for funding the kiln and the pass-through printing press that now live out there.

You may or may not know that Steve Walsh has been instrumental in establishing classes in the BGMAW with students from the Ballarat Specialist School adding a new dimension to the programs on offer at BSS. Steve and Blake have also been key players in re-purposing an existing BSS facility into a manual arts area for their students albeit slightly smaller than ours.

I extend my thanks and appreciation on your behalf to Matt Gannon and all at BSS for engaging with us in a collaborative partnership that has resulted in something quite special.

Membership Growth

Our membership base has grown to over 1300 this year, a testament to the strength and relevance of our work. We continue to welcome new members into the U3A Ballarat community connecting those new to the area or recently retired to the classes and friendship on offer. This year, some Committee members undertook the task of phoning new members to ascertain more about how the 'newbies' had found us and how new member induction and class experiences to date had been. Our newest members provided highly positive feedback on their U3A Ballarat experience. Each new member provides perspective and energies which enrich our organisation.

Events and Community Outreach

We hosted a record number of events this year including a statewide professional workshop on the Ageing Voice and a Conducting Workshop. The musical events at BNCC and out in the community are numerable from the Ukelele Minstrels playing in aged care homes and pub balconies, and the Celtic Band at 'CresFest', to the U3A Ballarat Chorale performing at St Pat's Cathedral as part of the Ballarat Choral Festival. Then there are City of Ballarat sponsored events like Seniors Week, which is really a month-long event, the Fun runs and the Begonia Festival. Participation in these events have fostered deeper connections within our community and provided performance growth opportunities.

Guest authors and guest speakers have added other elements to the process of exposure to new ideas and new learning: Bryan Putt on the role of cinema, Terry Dixon and Julie Bradby on the importance of botanical gardens, and local author Robbi Neal to name a few.

Once again, the Summer School proved to be popular with members. It provides connection at a time of year when feelings of loneliness can be heightened; it creates an opportunity for short courses to occur, and for new Tutors to put their toes of wisdom into the waters of teaching and learning. Thanks go to Immediate Past President Nina Netherway for her co-ordination of the many logistical facets of the Summer School.

The Open House for the BGMAW was a big day and I thank the Tutors and Class Convenors who organised the displays which demonstrated the amazing creative output from the manual arts classes. It was super to have a range of Tutors and Class Convenors there to explain the techniques used to create the art on display.

The recent Trivia afternoon was a full house and much fun was had. The dedicated Catering Crew were on hand once again to ensure event attendees were well watered. Many thanks to those dedicated members of the Catering Crew who give of their time so freely at the many catered events throughout the year.

Of course, events don't happen without publicity and Elena has done a beaut job in creating different posters for all the events.

Recognition and Awards

Both Nina Netherway and Bec Black were finalists in the City of Ballarat Senior Citizen of the Year Awards. It is pleasing to see active members receiving recognition at this level. We intend nominating U3A Ballarat people for these awards in 2025.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

No year is without its difficulties. Principal among the challenges we faced is managing increased demand for our programs with finite facility resources. I wish to thank Vice President Miriam Peck for the extraordinary job she does with co-ordinating classes and venues. As Class Co-ordinator she oversees all programs and works with Tutors and Convenors on a regular basis, helping resolve all manner of problems from the seemingly insignificant though no less important to more major calamities. The closure of the Eastwood Complex for renovation will add another layer of complexity to this already challenging role. As Miriam searches for alternate venues, any suggestions are most welcome.

The transition from MyU3A to Member Wizard has, overall, been smooth. With any such change, there will be an initial phase of resolving unforeseen issues. The change of online environments creates a level of uncertainty, but it also presents a learning opportunity that we should embrace. It's good for the brain.

I take this opportunity to repeat my messages from the Bulletin regarding fairness and kindness to promote the understanding that the U3A Ballarat Office is staffed by volunteers who do their very best to assist members in resolving issues. No-one is paid at U3A Ballarat, and kindness and respect should be duly displayed when interacting with office folk.

I take this opportunity to thank my fellow Admin level Wizards, Jeff Langdon and Nina Netherway for the hours of work invested in bringing Member Wizard into our learning sphere. Some have asked why the swap. The answer is multilevel. MyU3A is in its "fourth age" and passed its prime. It requires too many work arounds in the background to function effectively and that made it unsustainable. MyU3A lacks the data manipulation power that Member Wizard possesses. There is a new level of functionality with Member Wizard that allow each member more agency over certain elements... like notifying absence and most importantly perhaps... re-setting your own password. Furthermore, MyU3A is to be discontinued soon. Finally, Network Victoria, the peak body for U3As in Victoria are paying almost all the immediate and ongoing costs for Member Wizard.

This building is our home base and we share the space (and the operational costs) with two other organisations. On your behalf, I extend my thanks to John Olsen, Di Ingle and John Gregurke from the Ballarat North Senior Citizens, Lead Pastor Ben Hewitt and Associate Pastor Gerald Liew from City on a Hill, for their kind and generous support of U3A Ballarat. We meet each month to manage logistics of our "big share house".

Strategic Priorities for the Coming Year

Each year we hold a planning meeting in which the Committee establishes some strategic priorities for the year ahead. Our strategic priorities include:

- Strengthening member engagement through enhanced communication.

- Expanding our digital presence to reach more people, irrespective of location or circumstance.
- Cultivating new partnerships with businesses, educational institutions, and community groups.

We will continue to review of our structures, policies, and procedures to ensure that we are well-positioned to meet future demands and expectations.

Appreciation and Acknowledgments

None of our achievements would have been possible without the collective effort of so many. In addition to the statements of appreciation contained above, I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to:

- The Committee of Management, for their wisdom, guidance, and oversight, their tireless work and creative thinking.
- Our dedicated volunteer Office staff for their tireless work, and commitment to helping our members. Office Manager Bec Black invests significant hours to ensure the Office is open and expertise is available. She deserves our whole hearted thanks.
- Our Tutors and Class Convenors, whose generosity of spirit and time are the backbone of our success as an organisation.
- Anne Dwyer for her amazing work with the Bulletin. It has gone from strength to strength in terms of content and layout. In recent months, Wendy Abraham has stepped into do some of the member interviews for the U3A Ballarat Bulletin, which is another positive development. So, thanks Wendy.
- Our Members, for their engagement, feedback, and belief in our shared vision.
- Partners such as the City of Ballarat Ageing Well team and the Ballarat Specialist School for their invaluable support and collaboration.

Conclusion

In closing, I am confident that our organisation is on a strong footing, ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges of the year ahead. We have built a community of learning which has real impact.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and for the privilege of serving as your President. Together, we can continue to make a positive difference in the lives of our members who live, learn and laugh together at U3A Ballarat.

5. Treasurers Report: Distributed prior to meeting

The past year was another successful one for the organisation. The completion of the Blake Gordon Manual Arts Workshop was the signature expenditure item now reported as a major fixed asset in the balance sheet. Membership fees, our largest income stream, saw an increase in both the number of members and commensurate income.

The grant for Ballarat City Council was fully expended and acquitted. The Council's support for U3A is much appreciated.

The advent of the Gallery at Ballarat North was an exciting development. Income for this is used to further develop the skills of craft and art classes and the gallery itself.

The profit and Loss shows a surplus of nearly \$27,000 for the year.

Ballarat U3A
Profit and Loss 24/25 for AGM

For the period from 1.7.2024. to 30.6.2025.

Accrual basis

	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Income						
Grants						
Ballarat City Council	8,672.73	-	-	-	-	-
Dept Industry (Shed)	-	-	-	17,841.00	-	-
Be Connected	-	-	-	-	-	10,000.00
Mosaics Grant - Net	(966.12)	(1,419.94)	3,909.81	-	-	-
Total — Grants	7,706.61	(1,419.94)	3,909.81	17,841.00	0.00	10,000.00
Membership Fees	75,435.75	70,271.92	58,949.42	55,097.92	38,373.90	60,578.00
Gallery Income	1,866.68	-	-	-	-	-
Sales Income	-	-	-	181.82	-	88.00
Photocopying Income	80.00	8.00	328.15	30.15	-	6.00
Donations	(80.00)	52.50	500.00	1.96	-	-
Events						
Trivia night	106.06	96.60	-	-	-	(102.91)
Other events	(76.32)	1,564.96	2,163.77	187.00	1,100.00	2,450.00
Total — Events	29.74	1,661.56	2,163.77	187.00	1,100.00	2,347.09
Interest received - Cheque Account	0.81	1.85	6.22	5.92	10.36	49.37
Interest Received - Other Accounts	2,188.31	1,525.12	57.46	146.30	799.44	1,306.73
Total — Income	87,227.90	72,101.01	65,914.83	73,492.07	40,283.70	74,375.19
Less: Expenses						
Fixed assets - depreciation	9,104.54	7,563.72	5,278.32	1,828.65	2,322.28	1,386.31
Grants Expenditure						
Be Connected expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	10,148.65
Grants Other	-	-	-	755.00	-	-

Total — Grants Expenditure	0.00	0.00	0.00	755.00	0.00	10,148.65
Utilities						
Electricity	-	-	891.57	1,034.99	550.18	-
Telephone	339.96	350.78	80.91	63.64	-	154.55
Internet	-	-	1,154.42	1,216.32	1,101.78	989.18
Zoom	258.51	244.51	400.18	835.08	1,441.64	-

Total — Utilities	598.47	595.29	2,527.08	3,150.03	3,093.60	1,143.73
Equipment						
Office	318.68	1,782.43	1,101.77	1,073.28	844.92	1,467.87
Classes	912.64	58.18	1,559.11	773.76	860.95	647.01
Computer equipment	50.91	719.99	-	-	381.36	121.78
Repairs and maintenance	-	118.04	119.27	595.63	169.05	781.10
Total — Equipment	1,282.23	2,678.64	2,780.15	2,442.67	2,256.28	3,017.76
Events						
AGM	-	-	-	-	560.99	330.65
Tutors Lunch	2,741.08	2,452.30	2,554.88	3,068.18	-	2,066.61
Makers market	-	-	-	-	-	64.85
Other	856.82	2,730.72	2,869.86	2,352.46	1,302.77	364.64
Total — Events	3,597.90	5,183.02	5,424.74	5,420.64	1,863.76	2,826.75
Office Expenses						
Printing and stationery	347.00	2,333.90	1,140.65	664.51	236.77	249.06
Bulletin	2,050.63	2,173.43	1,908.60	2,239.36	2,153.70	3,297.68
Class Supplies	4,668.69	36.82	2,256.91	1,697.43	2,428.38	2,014.61
Photocopying expenses	1,381.24	904.58	422.23	251.38	398.48	290.65
NBSSC and Genesis Cleaning fees	-	-	2,622.91	1,771.45	734.20	2,069.02
Other Cleaning	40.00	-	1,303.76	1,483.79	1,880.41	13.64
Other Office expenses	1,920.46	1,267.38	331.45	-	189.74	400.15
Total — Office Expenses	10,408.02	6,716.11	9,986.51	8,107.92	8,021.68	8,334.81
Fees						
Network Capitation Fees	2,141.81	2,018.18	2,014.55	1,854.55	1,992.73	2,158.18
MYU3A Fees	699.30	699.30	660.00	679.40	1,225.77	388.35
Legal and Accounting Fees	(85.22)	-	-	-	414.49	-
Performance Fees	-	37.81	221.81	143.59	74.70	359.32
Bank charges	15.99	10.55	18.82	19.65	12.54	36.32
Total — Fees	2,771.88	2,765.84	2,915.18	2,697.19	3,720.23	2,942.17
Promotion						
Advertising	2,041.96	204.00	-	489.48	215.31	730.05
Website	110.00	760.00	44.00	380.00	818.00	380.00
Entertainment	103.18	-	266.34	260.00	198.19	59.09
Total — Promotion	2,255.14	964.00	310.34	1,129.48	1,231.50	1,169.14

Accommodation Costs (rent, utilities, etc.)						
Airport Hut	2,350.08	3,584.75	-	-	-	98.64
Alexandra Croquet						

Club	-	-	-	-	-	2,600.00
Ballarat Basketball (BSEC)	3,529.54	2,818.46	2,993.95	2,930.90	567.27	363.63
Ballarat East Community Shed	-	-	-	840.00	-	-
Ballarat North Bowling Club	80.00	-	-	-	-	-
Ballarat North Neighbourhood House	-	1,600.00	-	636.36	400.00	700.00
Ballarat Petanque Inc	-	-	-	690.00	210.00	-
Ballarat South Senior Citizens	-	-	-	-	80.00	120.00
Ballarat South Uniting Church	-	-	-	820.00	490.00	2,270.00
BCMA	-	-	100.00	-	-	-
Blake Gordon Manual Arts Workshop	614.69	16,851.19	-	-	-	-
BNCC	6,738.62	3,664.59	-	104.00	104.00	104.00
Brown Hill Uniting Church	-	-	-	-	210.00	1,260.00
Eastwood Leisure Complex	12,000.00	15,000.00	10,800.00	8,800.00	8,000.00	12,000.00
Hockey Ballarat	4,570.00	1,975.00	1,845.00	425.00	-	1,200.00
Neil St	-	-	-	60.00	-	460.00
Pinarc	-	-	-	2,500.00	9,000.00	12,500.00
Sebastapol Library	169.09	-	-	-	-	-
VRI Hall	-	-	1,440.00	3,120.00	720.00	1,160.00
York St Uniting Church	285.00	-	-	-	-	-
Total — Accommodation Costs (rent, utilities, etc.)	30,337.02	45,493.99	17,178.95	20,926.26	19,781.27	34,836.27
Insurance	128.57	690.15	621.41	525.15	991.31	-
Miscellaneous expenses	-	-	90.91	60.26	-	217.45
Total — Expenses	60,483.77	72,650.76	47,113.59	47,043.25	43,281.91	66,023.04
Net profit (loss)	26,744.13	(549.75)	18,801.24	26,448.82	(2,998.21)	8,352.15

Motion

That the annual subscription for all members for 2025 remain at \$60. There is no discount offered for part year membership, and the annual subscription for financial members of another U3A be \$30.

Moved: Don Collins Seconded : Jeff Langdon Passed.

6. Vice President's and Class Coordinators Report: Miriam Peck – Report distributed prior to meeting.
7. Communication Report: Anne Dwyer - Report distributed prior to meeting.
8. Membership Report: Nina Netherway – Report distributed prior to the meeting.
9. Events and Catering : Elena Tommasi - Report distributed prior to the meeting.
10. Blake Gordon Manual Arts Shed Report: Steve/Blake – Report distributed prior to the meeting.
11. Committee Nominations & Elections - Introduced and conducted by John Olsen.

Preamble:

- Election process based upon updated Rules of Association, 2023
- Nominations opened 7th July 2025 and closed on 1st August 2025.
- Election process in 3 parts:

Election of Executive

Followed by a motion

Election of other members

- Election of President, Vice President, Secretary, & Treasurer.
- Part 2 motion to be read by John Olsen:
The AGM of 21st August 2025 determines that there shall be 9 Ordinary Members elected plus the Immediate Past President appointed to the 2025/2026 Committee. During that time the Committee may identify and fill additional vacancies, where it seeks to supplement skills required for the effective working of U3A Ballarat.

Moved: Don Collins Seconded: Elena Tommasi Passed

- Discussion, followed by vote.
- Covers Section 53 (1) and 57 (1) of the Rules of Association, 2023.

- Part 3: Assuming the motion in part 2 carried.
- Election of 9 Ordinary Members and the continued appointment of immediate past president to Committee. There are 9 nominations therefor an election is not needed.

John Olsen will hand the meeting over to President , Don Collins.

Don introduced the Ballarat Chorale for a further bracket of two songs.

Part 3: As the motion in part 2 was carried.

- Election of 9 Ordinary Members and appointment of Immediate Past President to Committee.

NOMINATIONS TO HAND FOR THE 38TH Annual General Meeting U3A Ballarat Inc.

President	Don Collins	Moved: Ros McArthur
Vice President	Miriam Peck	Moved: Ros McArthur
Secretary	Coral Hiscock	Moved: Ros McArthur
Treasurer	Jeff Langdon	Moved: Nina Netherway
Immediate Past President	Nina Netherway	Moved: Ros McArthur
Ordinary Committee Member	Anne Dwyer	Moved: Rebecca Black
Ordinary Co Ordinary Committee Member	Roslyn McArthur	Moved: Nina Netherway
Ordinary Committee Member	Elena Tomassi	Moved: Roslyn McArthur
Ordinary Committee Member	Rebecca Black	Moved: Anne Dwyer
Ordinary Committee Member	Barbara Burnett	Moved: Ros McArthur
Ordinary Committee Member	Steve Walsh	Moved: Don Collins
Ordinary Committee Member	Adele Byrne	Moved: Anne Dwyer
Ordinary Committee Member	Rob Weiser	Moved: Don Collins
Ordinary Committee Member	Leonie Benson	Moved: Nina Netherway

Janet Dale made a notation of appreciation of the outstanding work undertaken by the Ballarat U3A Committee and members, and placed a motion of appreciation: moved: Janet Dale, seconded Ann Agni.

As there is no General Business, Don closed the meeting and thanked all for their attendance.

Afternoon Tea was served.