



ANNUAL REPORT

2020

U3A Sunshine Coast

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*“Our operations and financial standing are a true measure  
of our ongoing commitment to our U3A membership.”*

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# President's Report

*"A challenging year for U3A Sunshine Coast" - Glyni Cumming, President*



Welcome to all members attending this year's Annual General Meeting, postponed from May owing to the COVID 19 pandemic. Although the past 16 months have been extraordinarily challenging, the Annual Report still has much to celebrate in our tenacity of purpose in working towards our goals.

## Life Member Awards:

We proudly acknowledge the recipients of this year's Life Membership awards for outstanding service to the organisation: Jim Hales, John D. Cooper, Mara Miller, Patricia Barry, Myra Timmerman and Ian R. Wilson. Those attending the AGM will be formally presented with their Life Membership badges and certificates. Sadly, Bruce Dawes passed away in April, although we hope his widow Liz Dawes will attend to receive his posthumous award.

## Bursary Awards:

We again chose three USC students to receive bursaries of \$2000 each: Samantha Vollmer, B Nursing Science; Caitlyn Hockam, B Primary Education; and Sam Turnbull, B Business. We anticipate hearing how they have managed to continue with their studies during the time of COVID 19. The Management Committee also decided to provide \$2000 towards Student Emergency Bursaries, drawing on once-off funding provided by the Federal Government. Russell Ousley, Director of the USC Development Office, has been invited to share with us how the University and its students have handled the COVID 19 challenge.

## Vote of Thanks:

We will also present a formal vote of thanks to our Patron, the retiring Vice-Chancellor of USC, Professor Greg Hill AO whose term of office finishes in August. Professor Hill has given us excellent support including the ongoing provision of our office and teaching space at the university, along with access to postal, IT and WIFI service, venues and resources for our major annual functions.

## Change in Presidency in 2019:

After returning from a three-month trip overseas, Colin Maddocks resigned as President, although he was Master of Ceremonies of the highly successful Master Lectures day in October. Colin was Chair of the Strategy Development Steering Group, publishing our Five-year Strategic Plan in 2017, and as President showed forward thinking in many new areas of policy, constitutional change and bylaws. He also oversaw the employment of our first paid employee, Administrative Officer, Joanna Evans. We were sorry to lose Colin's drive and enthusiasm. It is noteworthy that U3A Network Queensland has appointed Colin as their Communications Officer.

## Management Committee Activities:

The Management Committee has continued to develop and refine policies, such as one on Social Media that provides guidelines to our editors regarding posts on Facebook. Another new initiative is our first bylaw on Life Membership, to recognise those who have made an outstanding contribution to the success of our organisation. Regrettably, the review of the Strategic Plan stopped in its tracks owing to COVID 19.

In 2021, we will instead review our progress towards its targets as part of developing a new Strategic Plan for the next five years.

As the Office of Fair Trading queried last year's amendments to our Constitution, this year's proposed amendments refer specifically to the election of the Management Committee and also simplify the definition of membership. Members will vote on these changes at the AGM.

Nominations for membership of this year's Management Committee were called for via email and post, and were accepted subsequently without the need for an election.

## Courses and Classes:

Although all U3A classes closed on March 9th, followed soon afterwards by an almost complete national shutdown, something extraordinary did happen: about 20 of our tutors responded to our Course Coordinator, Wayne Curran's encouragement to adapt their classes to go online. For example, Life Member Myra Timmerman ran weekly classes via Zoom, with many of her students joining in from their own homes. Some classes have enjoyed these on line sessions so much that their tutors plan to continue with online teaching.

## Administrative Support:

Two months after the forced closure of our U3A office, our Administrative Officer Joanna Evans resigned. Jo had worked hard to establish working partnerships with the Management Committee, office volunteers and the University. She rose to many challenges, put in place some sound approaches to record keeping, forward planning and advertising promotions for our various projects. After our organisation returns to a level of normalcy, we will discuss the issue of increasing membership fees to cover the costs of re-employing a part-time Administrative Officer.

## Acknowledgements:

I wish to thank all members of the Management Committee who have continued to work productively for the benefit of our members throughout the year. Notably, Margaret Thomson, our Business Development Manager, applied successfully for a grant from the Sunshine Coast Council to replace our office photocopier. John Armstrong has stepped competently into the role of our Communications Officer bringing a fresh and dynamic approach to our e-Voice newsletter. You will be able to meet all of our committee at the AGM.

I also wish to thank our day leaders and their team of office volunteers, who have reopened the office in time to take enrolments for Term 3, albeit with significant limits on both class sizes and access to some venues.

Our members are looking forward to the enjoyment of socialising and learning again; however, for the safety of our community, members must make sure they are in good health before returning to class.

# Events Post-2019 AGM

Since the 2019 AGM, your presidents and members have participated in a number of events, representing our members and promoting U3A Sunshine Coast membership.

**Frayda Myers Cooper Memorial Prize.** In April 2019, Rabbi John D. Cooper and Vice-President Gyni Cumming presented the U3A Frayda Myers Cooper Memorial Prize to young writer Nicole Stephens, the highest achieving student in a study of Australian Literature, at USC's Annual Awards & Prizes Ceremony.

**Queensland Network Annual Conference.** In May 2019, then President Colin Maddocks, Vice President Gyni Cumming and members Ann Main and Geoff Bailey, attended the U3A Queensland Network Annual Conference in Bundaberg. Ann Main's report highlighted two significant discussion topics: 'Dealing with conflict in a Volunteer Environment' and 'Self-care for volunteers'. Unfortunately, this year's Queensland Network conference had to be cancelled owing to COVID 19.

**Trivia Afternoon.** Last year's U3A 'Trivia Afternoon' held at IRT The Palms in Buderim last July was great fun for all teams, and very stimulating for 'the little grey cells'. This year's event was also a casualty of the pandemic.

**I Age Well Expo.** In August, the 'I Age Well' Expo was held during Seniors Week at the Lake Kawana Community Centre, to showcase of the Sunshine Coast services available to our age group to help us 'Live Life To The Fullest'. Organiser Tanya Dave gave us prime corner stall on the day, which enabled our volunteers to chat to people about the U3A Sunshine Coast, and encourage them to join. Our ukulele groups provided great music backed by good vocals, and several of our own members modeled in the fashion parade.

**Master Lectures Day.** In October, we held our very first "Master Lectures" day at USC, with two key lecturers delivering informative presentations: Dr Martin Bridgstock, former lecturer at UQ, spoke on the role of U3As in maintaining our physical, mental and emotional health. Dr Apil Gurung, Lecturer in the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Para-medicine at the University of the Sunshine Coast, spoke on a new venture into 'Intergenerational Living' in Gympie.

**Tutors & Volunteers Luncheon.** In November 2019, we held our Annual Tutors & Volunteers Luncheon for about 70 guests at Kawana Surf Club. Special guests for the day were Rita Condon, Sally Mason and May Johnston, who were presented with framed certificates for achieving their 25th year of U3A membership. John and Jo Treby had their certificates home delivered a few days later. Aart and Bev Schouten delighted everyone with their beautiful vocals, encouraging guests to join in. Allan and June Blackburn stepped in at the last minute to be Masters of Ceremonies and chief photographers.

**U3A-SC Open Day.** In January 2020, our Open Day proved to be very successful at the U3A Office, receiving membership fees and enrolments for classes. Our members again showed great interest in the USC's Clinical Trials presentation and appreciated the golf buggy transport provided by the USC Student Ambassadors.

**U3A Globally.** Our last pre-pandemic event in February, Acting President Gyni Cumming attended a most remarkable and inspiring seminar entitled "U3A Globally" hosted by Toowoomba U3A. Guest of honour was Professor Francois Vellas, the President of the Association of International U3As whose father founded the now international University of the Third Age, at the University of Toulouse in 1973.

## Management Committee



Gyni Cumming  
President



John St Smith  
Vice President

*"Our Management Committee members are committed to excellence in their ongoing support of our members."*



Dawne Clark  
Secretary



Evonne Walker  
Treasurer



Grant Matthews  
Systems Manager



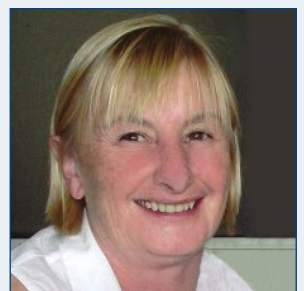
Wayne Curran  
Tutors & Classes



Margaret Thomson  
Business Development



John Armstrong  
Communications



Bernadette Moore  
Membership Liaison

# Our Financial Position

Careful management of our funds, overseen by the Management Committee, enables U3 Sunshine Coast to continue to keep our finances in excellent shape.

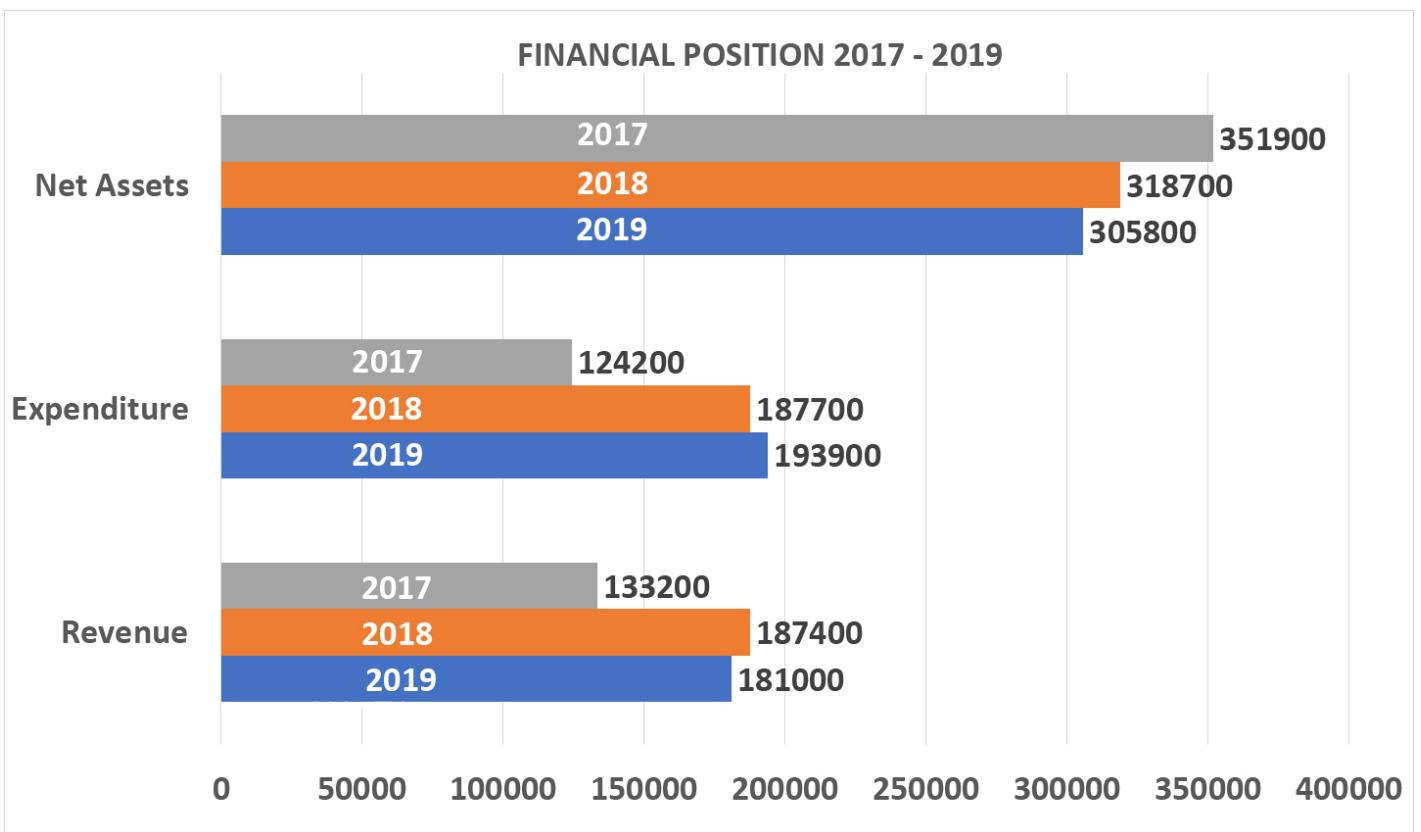
Despite a 26 per cent drop in interest earned since 2016 we have continued to build our investments by 13 per cent over the same period.

We have a total of \$253,900 in our five Investment Accounts

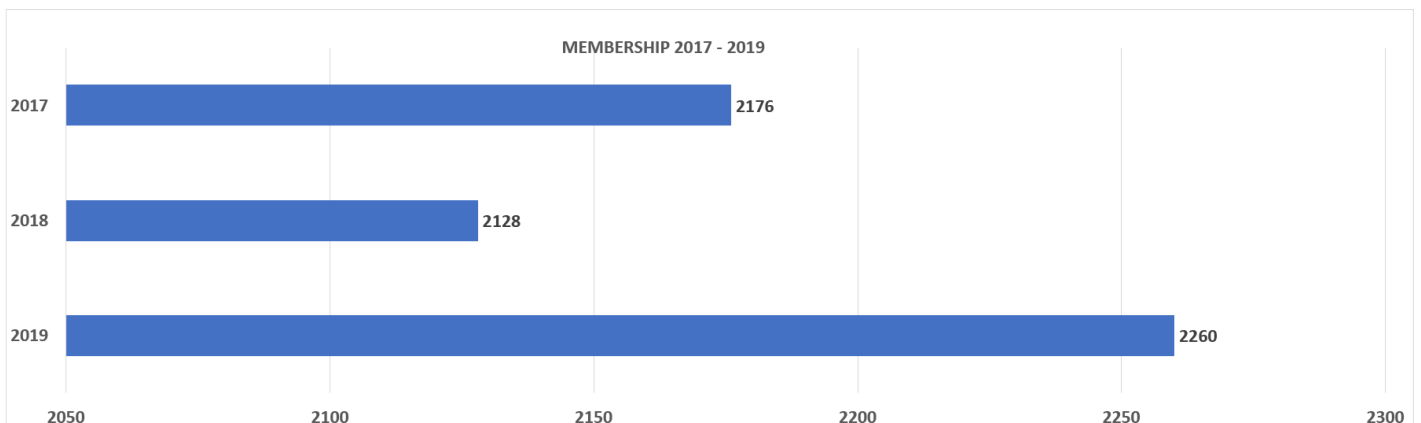
and the organisation has \$70,000 in fixed assets.

Members are encouraged to read the audited reports to get the overall financial picture of our Association. Members are invited to contact Treasurer Evonne Walker if they have any queries from the Audit Reports.

*Evonne Walker  
Treasurer*



# Our Membership



# Reports by Sector

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## TUTORS & COURSES

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The past year at U3A Sunshine Coast (U3ASC) has been an interesting but challenging time for Tutors and their classes, presenting setbacks but also new opportunities for online classes.

The cancellation of all U3A classes in March because of COVID-19 concerns was unprecedented. However, a number of Tutors took up the challenge to continue their classes via videoconferencing. Initially, this was a technology unfamiliar to most Tutors and U3A members but as people were willing to trial and experiment with holding online classes, members became more confident with using technology and more aware of the advantages that can be obtained with the increased knowledge of their computers and handheld devices.

In the future this could allow U3ASC to offer online classes in conjunction with, or in addition to, our normal classes for members who are unwell or have mobility or transport issues, but wish to stay connected both intellectually and socially.

The number and variety of classes continues to increase. Some of the new classes offered over the past year include: Guitar, Pickleball, Genealogy, Bushwalking, Human Biology plus additional Language, Discussion, Craft and Computer courses.

It is satisfying that some members are willing to present new classes and become involved to ensure the continuity of courses by taking the step of becoming a Tutor. It is important that U3ASC continues to encourage and support members to take on this role and offer ongoing assistance in undertaking their responsibilities.

Induction training has been implemented for all new Tutors, providing them with an understanding of the role and its duties as well as training in the MASS system to maintain contact with their students.

In my role as Tutor and Course Co-ordinator, I am happy to be of assistance with regard to tutor and/or course matters.

Wayne Curran  
Tutor & Course Coordinator

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## SYSTEMS REPORT

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Our Membership and Enrolment System (MASS) is now used in more than 40 U3A sites in Australia through most states. To date we are the only users of the system in Queensland. Enhancements in the system over the past 12 months has made it more user friendly and one of the main enhancements is the ability of the office to produce up to date course booklets as required.

The booklet produced for Open Day was an excellent example of this enhancement.

Training of Member Services volunteers has been ongoing assisting members without computer access to pay membership, enrol in courses and to help to other members with computer access to solve their issues. Members will become more proficient as usage increases and move into the 21st century of technological change.

As System Administrator I am always available to help anyone with any issues be it a member, tutor or volunteer, and we have received many favourable responses for this assistance. I will continue to provide help to any members, tutors or volunteers.

Grant Matthews  
Systems Manager

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## MEMBER LIASION

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The May 2020 data indicates a strong continuing membership profile for 2020 with 2137 current members.

The incoming management committee has recently decided to identify a new committee role that specifically focuses on this membership portfolio and I was fortunate to be nominated for this role. The specific tasks associated with this role are currently being defined, but potentially will span four areas of interest

Membership Profile: This will seek to ensure up to date information on membership profiles and trends with the data informing future organisational planning.

Membership Engagement: The committee hopes that this role will provide a 'go-to' liaison between the management committee and members where the views and concerns of individual members are able to be heard and integrated into organisational decision making.

Member Resources: The role will continue to develop and support resources to facilitate the induction of new members into the organisation.

Member Policy and Practices: The membership portfolio will work with the broader committee to ensure the organisational policies align with best practice to ensure a safe and equitable environment for all members.

As I take on this new role, and explore how it can best support the organisation, I look forward to meeting you and hearing about your experiences across the coming year.

Bernadette Moore  
Member Liaison

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## ADMINISTRATION

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Administration, the engine room of any organisation, continues to support our members and the Management Committee, ably supported by our five office Day Leaders and 30 Office Volunteers.

Since last year's AGM, the administrative team has been strengthened with the appointment of an administrative officer, until recently when the incumbent resigned. This was our first paid position and has worked well, supporting the Executive and U3A-SC as a whole.

Even though we are basically a self help organisation, with most organisational news and course enrolment on line, our volunteers are still kept very busy each day assisting members with the many and varied questions put to them

We are also grateful to the University for all the administrative support we receive being colocated on campus.

It's been a busy year, with our first Master Lecture Series, a monthly eVoice and more action as we continue to investigate the possibility of a hub at Caloundra, so thank you to all involved.

Dawne Clark  
Secretary

## GRANT APPLICATIONS

In March 2020, the University of the Third Age Sunshine Coast submitted a grant application to the Sunshine Coast City Council Community Grants Programme requesting funding in the amount of \$5,464 to purchase a new colour photocopier machine for our Office operations.

In May, 2020 the Sunshine Coast City Council Staff advised that our application had been approved for a City Grant for full funding for a new colour photocopier, which has been purchased and is in operation in our Office.

We acknowledge our appreciation to the Sunshine Coast City Council for the grant and to the City Staff who assisted us with the development of the grant application.

In June 2020, U3A Sunshine Coast submitted two grant applications to the Sunshine Coast City Council "Emergency COVID 19 Grants Programme". One application was submitted in the Category 'Connectivity and Connectedness' requesting funding of \$4,950 for the development of a U3A Sunshine Coast On-line Hub. The second application was submitted in the Category of 'Community Development' requesting funding of \$2,850 to purchase a number of 'Hearing Assistive Devices' for our classes where required.

Unfortunately, these applications were not successful so the Management Committee will investigate alternative methods of funding these projects.

*Margaret Thomson  
Business Development*

## COMMUNICATONS

Since taking over the Communications Officer role earlier this year, my focus has been on increasing the digital and online capability of U3A-SC.

The first stage was to create a digital version of the monthly eVoice newsletter that could be emailed to members containing links back to our website that enhanced the communication value of the newsletter. Parallel to the digital eVoice was to redesign the mailed-out print version of eVoice, for those members who do not have computer access readily available.

Both these projects are now complete but with the COVID-19 restrictions training of our office volunteers has been impractical until recently. Training in preparing the digital and print versions of eVoice can now be undertaken.

Another important project is the redesign of our website to include more features of a more interactive website connected to the existing MASS system. This is in ongoing development.

A recent application for funding of an Online Hub that would connect various member groups via a collection of Facebook-style pages was unfortunately not successful. However, this remains an important project, given the geographical spread of our members and the COVID-19 restrictions that seem to be with us for some time to come. The Management Committee will continue to find alternative funding for the online Hub.

*John Armstrong  
Communications Officer*

## U3A-SC PHYSICAL HUB

In October 2019, following unsuccessful, extensive negotiations with Facility Managers of a potential site for a U3A Sunshine Coast Hub in Caloundra, we initiated discussions and meetings with Sunshine Coast City Council staff to identify the potential to locate a Caloundra U3A Hub in City owned facilities.

City Staff identified a downtown Caloundra Facility, which they believed would be suitable to house our Programmes.

We were advised at that time that the facility in question was in the process of being re-assessed for future lease/rental and that a Tender Process for the building would be opened in late January 2020.

U3A-SC was preparing to submit a Tender for the facility on in January this year when the City cancelled the Call for Tenders. In further discussions with City staff, we were assured that they would continue to work with us to assist us in the development of a Caloundra Hub.

Obviously, the onset of the COVID 19 issues have drastically limited our opportunities to meet and continue our discussions with City Staff but, we have been re-assured by them that when regular operations return to City Hall, they will continue to work with us on our plans to develop a U3A Caloundra Hub.

The Management Committee will continue to work with Council to pursue options for the Hub.

*Margaret Thomson  
Business Development*



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