

## U3A CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2017 / 2018

Our current membership, which stands at 159, enjoyed amongst others, a stimulating list of varied speakers, with topics ranging from 'Our Children, Digital Natives', 'Organic Gardening', Sheikh Ibrahim Essop giving us an insight into his religion, the varied world of Architecture, thrills of paragliding and the joys of boating tours in our fantastic Bay.

Parallel to our meeting we experienced equally varied outings which included amongst others, the Nelson Mandela Museum's photographic record of the SS Mendes disaster, a historic walk about in Bird street with historian Margaret Harradine, a visits to the Port Elizabeth High Court, the Central Fire Station, NSRI and a presentation on the Origin of Humankind at the Nelson Mandela University.

2017 saw our Chairman Chris Rhodes and Vice Chairman Richard Burbidge step down. As a token of appreciation of in excess of 10 years of service on the committee they were bestowed with badges of Honorary Membership.

Also in 2017, for the first time in the history of U3A Port Elizabeth, we submitted a tax return to comply with the requirements of SARS, after having been granted PBO (Public Benefit Organisation) status with tax exemption.

Our attempt at launching Members Self Interest groups, sadly was very poorly supported when one of our members, Bob Pienaar conducted a computer course. Very grateful thanks to Bob.

In terms of our Constitution, clause 5.2, the Committee shall consist of at least five and not more than ten members. We have been operating for the past few months with less than five members, and this puts an enormous strain on the committee, particularly your very hard working secretary, Merlene Robinson, when one of the committee is away for reasons of health, family or holiday. I hereby give notice, very sadly, that unless more nominations to the committee are received this branch of U3A will dissolve at the close of 2018.

We are however grateful to members who responded to our plea for volunteers to assist with tasks when needed. These are our former Chairman and Vice Chairman, Chris Rhodes and Richard Burbidge respectively, Clare Blain, Di Daniels, and Diane Serruys. And we are very thankful to Clarence Hearne for offering to take over the setting up of our audio equipment from Aubrey Bradfield, who has stepped down.

Having recently been nominated by your committee to the position of chairman, I would like to thank members for their loyal attendance at monthly meetings and outings. Our committee has only been able to operate because of the invaluable contributions of Secretary, Merlene Robinson, Treasurer Debbie Morris and Speakers organiser, Pam Lewis. Thank you.

Finally a big vote of thanks to our out-going Chairman Aubrey Bradfield for stepping into Chris Rhodes' shoes.

Marjorie Malkin  
May 2018