

U3A CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2018 /2019

In terms of our Constitution, the objects are 'to provide intellectually stimulating programs of learning and the social contacts arising therefrom.'

With the injection of new blood your committee has been able to achieve this objective. Speakers topics have ranged from Great Fires of PE – Destroyed Heritage, research by the speaker into the reason why his Aunt was awarded the OBE in 1942 for work connected to Bletchley Park, Reptile and Raptor education, Homeopathy, Battle of Delville Wood, Photographic journey through faces of India and Bees and Dragon Fruit. Committee Member, Pam Lewis has pulled these rabbits out of the hat.

Lynda Connellan's outings have been equally varied and interesting. A visit to WWII Gun Battery at Brookes Hill, discovering a bottle making factory in Greenbushes, Ceramics in The Works Baakens Valley, a tour of the magnificently restored Mediterranean Shipping Company on the Donkin, Blue Moon Alpaca Farm, a visit to Clover Dairy and finally the Feather Market Hall Organ. Another 'thank you' to committee member Philip Stunden for his photographic records.

It is always rewarding to your committee to have active participation in talks and outings by own members, to those another 'thank you'. The smooth running of our meetings also could not happen without the very able contribution of volunteers, Clare Blain and Clarence Hearne manning tables and setting up and controlling our audio equipment.

Attendance at our Annual Christmas Lunch is falling. December is a busy time for all. Would Members perhaps like to welcome the new year in with a celebratory lunch in January when there is a dearth of functions. Your feedback on this is welcome.

Vice Chairman Sheila Forrest, who liaises with the Library Management on the deteriorating facilities has had a challenging year. We appreciate the difficulties the library face with municipal budget constraints. Severe Load Shedding has forced us to take the decision not to hold meetings during power outages in future. The Auditorium will not be safe for our members. For future reference the Library comes under Group 8 in the Municipal schedules.

We have received letters of thanks from Hospice and SANTA for members charity donations. Keep them coming.

In 2018 172 members registered and by the end of March 2019, 137 members had registered.

I would like to thank fellow committee members for their loyal attendance at monthly meetings and outings. Debbie Morris our Treasure, keeps a tight rein on us. We all rely heavily on Secretary, Merlene Robinson's invaluable knowledge and experience.

Without this team effort we could not enjoy serving members.
Thank you.

Marjorie Malkin
April 2019