

President's Report to Committee of Management 11th February 2026

Some personal observations

Where are we?

We currently have 624 total members. Well above any previous levels, but we'll soon delete those who've chosen not to come back in 2026; our true2026 membership level is about 520. The high rate of member returns from last year suggests we are doing something, probably most things, right.

We have a reasonable range of classes and some are very popular, but also some gaps in the offering. We also have substantial waitlists for some popular classes. This is not ideal.

We could have more classes, with a wider range, if we could attract new Tutors. Historically it's been a challenge to attract Tutors. How do we make people want to take on these rewarding roles?

Our members, including Tutors and Office Bearers, want to have lives outside U3A – travel, health problems, grandchildren are common themes. We need to ensure we are all able to be absent! Deputies, Convenors and systems to support absences are important. MWiz can help with this.

Communications with our members are good ... thanks to our Bulletins, Website and Newsletter. We need to ensure these are effective and on target.

We have good financial stability. This gives us the capacity to do things ... what do we want to do?

We have good relations with our council and the associated libraries, but we need to be careful to maintain this, our most important relationship. It's fragile if we don't nurture it.

We have a range of venues, but due to our membership increase we are now starting to run into a capacity limitation at our principal venue – the Collingwood library meeting room. We also have a challenge to spread our activities around the geographic extent of our city.

We have a new Member Wizard system that is now getting to a stable state, even including the financial module. Hopefully this means we have the ability to plan and track activities without it taking a lot of Committee and Treasurer work. The MWiz system has many features to help us.

We have low levels of conflict amongst our members. Generally a harmonious bunch, and the few inter-personal issues that have arisen have been resolved without too much drama.

We have hard working and knowledgeable Committee of Management members and other office bearers. Some are new which is excellent and some have been involved for a few years; also excellent as this implies continuity of experience. But succession planning is critical.

What are we to accomplish this year?

Settling down of Member Wizard, and in particular the financial part of MWiz, with special thanks for work already done by Treasurer and other committee members. I think we are well set up now for that to happen.



Review of our Roles & Responsibilities of Office Bearers, our Rules and our Policies. This has begun. I'd like to see a consistent set of documents, and a clear program for regular reviews.

Recruit more Tutors for more and more varied classes. Any ideas? Our 500+ members have vast experience and enthusiasm, but we need to tap into this.

Establishment of a program of one-off events. The committee has begun this, with a sub-committee set up. More contributions and suggestions from members would be helpful.

Revival of the Ageing Well Committee within U3A Yarra City. Committee will promote this as a bridge between U3A and Yarra Council.

Progress on the History of U3A Yarra City project. A history committee is set up and they are keen. This will go well and will benefit from assistance from the Committee of Management and long-term members.

Succession planning for the Committee and for all Office Bearers – a new President is required in August! All Office Bearers and Tutors need to consider alternative roles and who will replace us ... and how we will support new people in the transition.

Peter Moore
President
U3A Yarra City