



**U3A CAMPBELLTOWN Inc**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 12 MARCH 2021**  
**President's Report**

It is safe to say that 2020 was almost the year that never was. The Year of COVID-19!

Early signs were there at our Annual General Meeting last year but we didn't fully comprehend that a week later we would be cancelling all classes, groups, meetings and outings; followed a few days later by the closure of the Marchant Community Centre and the total lockdown of South Australians for three months.

Life as we had taken for granted came to a grinding halt. Major events and special celebrations were cancelled, attendance at weddings and funerals was strictly limited, families were separated and those with loved ones in aged care facilities had to manage with a wave through a window if they were lucky.

Some of our members found their much looked forward to overseas holidays cancelled. Kerrie and Bob Smith, who had departed for the United States prior to lockdown, finally managed "... by the skin of our teeth ..." to return home, going straight into total isolation for two weeks.

We learned over the year to meet with one another maintaining an allocated space of one person per two square metres – or even to four square metres.

So, did all this mean that U3A Campbelltown SA went into hibernation and achieved little during much of 2020? Far from it.

Tutors, leaders and members embraced technology and learned how to set up and run, or to join ZOOM meetings. We learned the protocols and various intricacies and much laughter was shared as we embraced the niceties.

Newsletters were published and distributed – thank you to Diane Campbell for your desktop publishing skills.

Embracing new information technology has its challenges – a couple of which left me with a red face a time or two. Nevertheless, we did manage to conduct Executive and Board Meetings and a couple of General Meetings – including a Guest Speaker in Term 3 – Gail Ruth Miller "*Come Alive at 55*". Thank you to everyone for your understanding and willingness to try again when links didn't work as planned.

Top marks go to Marie Galletta who continued throughout the entire year to provide a full curriculum of very successful Italian and French classes via ZOOM – to the extent that students have voted to continue via ZOOM in the winter months of 2021 – and organised an outing for each language class during the “term break” in July. Well done and thank you, Marie.

Other groups and classes which made use of the U3A Campbelltown SA ZOOM license were Play Reading (Jill Whittaker); Crime Fiction Readers, and Coffee, Conversation & Books (Kerrie Smith) and Advanced Computing (Glenda). Trying to teach computing via ZOOM (on a computer) is a major challenge and our ZOOM meetings became more social, finally meeting in real life at Café Va Bene. Several other groups stayed in touch by organising coffee catchups once these social activities became allowable.

With warmer weather approaching, Peter Mole and Anne Fletcher moved their Tai Chi classes to Thorndon Park and continued to the end of the year.

There are two other leaders who stand out in my mind – Vale Pederson for Bone Density and Photoshoots and Helen Ward for Reading for Pleasure.

Vale led the Bone Density class through their paces at Foxfield Oval on Tuesdays and Thursdays from March throughout the whole of 2020 – class members relishing the fresh air, taking their own weights, a chair to use as a support and observing the prescribed distance and protocols. One lap around the oval, relaxing for a coffee from Indigo and a welcome chat rounded off the class. The Photoshoot group didn't miss a beat and continued to meet in the open air throughout the year.

Helen Ward found herself organising Reading for Pleasure meetings in parks, at an outside patio at a member's home and later splitting the group into two making it easier to meet in cafes, etc on the first or second Monday of the month.

Our sincerest thanks to you both for your effort and leadership during this challenging time.

The Walking Group (Robin Baxter & Bob Smith) resumed in Term 4 – avoiding public transport as much as was possible.

Throughout Terms 1, 2 and 3 we tested the confidence of our members, virtually all in the “vulnerable group”; leaders and tutors undertook training as a COVID-Safe Marshall and we finally returned to the Marchant Centre for Term 4 – fewer classes to adjust for permissible numbers and contact; COVID-Safe Plan in place, including sign-in sheets, hand sanitiser everywhere and protocols to sanitise chairs, tables and equipment. A special grant from U3A SA helped considerably to defray the cost of these supplies.

For ease of management, we made the decision to accept no new enrolments for Term 4 2020. We were happy to be able to hold a General Meeting in real life. The intended speaker from Spring Gully Foods was unable to make it and a young, new employee of two weeks' standing stepped in. He did very well and those who attended were delighted to receive a free “sample” of the Spring Gully Tomato Chutney.

Finally, the 2021 Prospectus and Enrolment Form were published in November – with thanks again to Diane Campbell for her desktop publishing skills and to Kerrie Smith for all her work on the curriculum throughout the year. Enrolments for 2021 were accepted from date of publishing the Term 4 Newsletter. It appeared that some members did not receive this newsletter. I was advised by the Postmaster at Bigpond that, unless emails bounced back, they are in the recipient's Inbox somewhere. I encourage everyone to check all the settings for your emails – there may be a tiny box somewhere that has been ticked which sends it to Junk or deletes it altogether. Now that I've learned how to personalise emails, there may be less problems. Please remember to advise the office if you change your telephone number and/or your email address.

A “short, sharp but not so shiny” lockdown in November brought an early year's end closure to those classes and groups meeting at the Marchant Centre.

Our Christmas Picnic in the Park was moved to The Gums, Shakespeare Avenue, Tranmere and was well attended whilst observing COVID-Safe protocols.

Enrolment days were held in January this year – set up on the veranda of the Marchant Centre – with classes resuming in early-February, members being reminded to “check in” with our own QR code and COVID-Safe protocols still in place.

It was inevitable that we would lose some members throughout 2020 because they were uncomfortable with technology and/or may still feel too vulnerable to return. Nevertheless, from 256 at the same time last year our membership currently sits at 241, including over 20 new members. We are offering a couple less classes because of COVID restrictions and will welcome suggestions for newer courses that will attract new or returning members. In Term 2 we will be welcoming Kotara as a group under the umbrella of U3A Campbelltown, which will add another thirty or so to our membership and expand opportunities for current members. Full details will be in our newsletter to be published shortly.

Our Outings will be taking place once per term to minimise the workload on Ros Reddaway. I'm sure Ros would welcome someone stepping forward to assist her in this role. And if you would prefer two Outings per term, you will be very welcome to join the team to organise them.

Helen Ward has organised Guest Speakers for our General Meetings for several years and has retired from that position to give herself time to enjoy other aspects of U3A Campbelltown SA life. Helen, on behalf of us all at U3A Campbelltown SA, thank you so much for the diverse and interesting speakers you have brought to us. And thank you to Jan Ness who has stepped into that role.

The year 2020 was a challenge and we learned a lot about ourselves as individuals and as a community. Life is still governed by the threat of COVID-19 and will be until we are all vaccinated. South Australians have enjoyed a quality of life to be envied by many interstate and especially by those overseas.

My personal thanks must go to Graziella Rosmini – who helps to keep us (and me) on track.

Thank you and congratulations to all Board Members, Leaders, Tutors and members. Together, we have been the glue to ensure the continuing success of U3A Campbelltown SA through a remarkable time.

Together, we have achieved our mission to stay active – mentally, physically and socially.

I commend this report to members of U3A Campbelltown.

Glenda Sherwin-Lane  
President  
U3A Campbelltown Inc  
12 March 2021