

Tamar Valley U3A



Sharing Learning throughout the Tamar Valley

First AGM of Tamar Valley U3A held on 23 August

The first Annual General Meeting of Tamar Valley U3A Inc was held on 23 August and was well attended by members.

Certificates of appreciation were presented by the President to members of the original Steering Committee and to tutors for terms 1 and 2 of this year in recognition of their considerable contribution to the community.

The full text of the President's Report is given below:

President's reports usually cover a full year of activity. This has been our inaugural year so my report has a "future focus".

Thank you to all those who have been involved in getting us to where we are now. As I wrote in the newsletter, there have been many contributors. Each in their own way has helped and each make up part of the team. So I am pleased that we are using the AGM today to present certificates of acknowledgement to many people who have helped and are helping to build the Tamar Valley U3A.

Good governance should be almost invisible especially in organizations such as ours. The governance should be effective and deliver the goals we have set ourselves. It should also have a clear focus. So if you choose to re-elect me as President you should be aware of the directions I will set for the management committee.

There are a significant number of "seniors' organizations". The West Tamar Council has its Seniors Advisory Group

(SAG), there is the Association of Independent Retirees (AIR), there are Probus Clubs and there are groups of older members in other community groups. The "seniors space" is already well catered for so U3A does not need to be added to that list in providing social, consultative or policy frameworks for seniors.

Our role is the provision of quality educational programs to meet the needs of our members and future members. Our uniqueness lies in the fact that we are both the teachers and the students.

We appear to be a very successful organization with over 100 members and running many courses. However we are quite fragile in the sense that we rely on the hard work of a few and we have yet to demonstrate resilience, persistence and achievement over time. My focus and goals for the next 12 months will be quite simple:

1. Growth of active membership.
2. Building capacity to deliver high quality courses.
3. Building capacity and willingness of members to volunteer to take on any tasks, administrative and other.
4. Maintaining the focus on our core business.

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WELCOME TO THREE NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Glenyse Frost
Caroline Richards &
Frank Thompson

Full list of the TVU3A
Committee can be found on
Page 2

President's Report Cont'd from Page 1.

The way will measure our success is:

1. Do we still have over 100 members in August 2014?
2. Are course numbers sustained or growing?
3. Are members enthusiastic and contributing?
4. Will there be volunteers, ready and anxious, to take over most committee positions at the AGM in 2014?

I know just how much hard work is being done to make our U3A work. To paraphrase "Mission Impossible" my focus, should you decide to elect me as President, will be to support those who keep us running on a day to day basis, and to build our capacity.

That really should be one of the roles of each and every member.

This report has been a bit solemn and is so deliberately. It would be a real waste of initiative, hard work and commitment if we did not set out quite explicitly to build a lasting organization on the excellent start that has been made. The next year is quite crucial in that regard.

I look forward to continuing my work within the Tamar Valley U3A in the role of President if you choose to elect me, or as Member 24 otherwise.

I would like to apologize for the absence of Barack Obama at the AGM. He was not returning emails! Prince Harry regrets that he was too busy learning to be an uncle but he may come next year!

Peter Kearney, President

YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2013-2014

Executive

Peter Kearney	President
Vivien Tyson	Vice President
Frank Thompson	Treasurer
Penny Willington	Secretary

Committee Members

Glenyse Frost
Christina Holmdahl
Joanne McLean
Caroline Richards
Pat Turner

Coordinators

Christina Holmdahl - Publicity
Glenyse Frost - Venue
Joanne McLean - Office
Caroline Richards - Social
Pat Turner - Course
Penny Willington - Membership

Dates to Remember...

As some of you know, a great deal of thought has been given to the length of terms for 2014 and it has been decided to trial 4 terms of 8 weeks. It should be noted however, that some classes will vary in length and may run for a longer or shorter period than the 8 weeks. Term dates start the second week of school holidays allowing for grandparenting in the holidays – a week to prepare and a week to recover!

Term Dates for 2014

Term 1:	10 February – 4 April	Term 3:	28 July – 19 September
Term 2:	12 May – 30 June	Term 4:	20 October – 12 December

More Dates....

- ❖ **7 October at 9.00am – 12 noon – Deviot Hall.** Come and Meet the Tutors. Bring a friend or just yourself, to watch or participate in a class of Tai Chi, Sacred Circle Dancing or have some "Fun with French" with morning tea on the deck. Tutors from several classes will be in attendance to tell you about their classes of informal, shared learning with the main focus on fun and enjoyment learning at your own pace.
- ❖ **14 October at 10.30 Beaconsfield House – Nigel Burch,** local author and researcher to talk on the history of Beauty Point.
Bring a plate of cold food and share a "pot-luck" lunch. You will be able to enrol for the Spring Program as well. Bring a friend. RSVP 11/10/31 by phone or email or drop into the office at the Beaconsfield Online Centre Wednesdays 10am to 1pm.
- ❖ **22 November – 1.00-2.00pm, Beaconsfield Hospital - Talk by Rhonda McCoy, Director of Nursing** on the facilities available at the District Health Services, Beaconsfield Hospital followed by a tour of the facilities.
- ❖ **29 November – Christmas Function.** Details to follow

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS...



Our **Philosophy** tutor Raimund Bruns dressed up for the first session of Term 3, when we discussed Socrates Symposium. Our group has had much enjoyment from these sessions.

As two participants in the Tamar Valley U3A programs, Jenny and I would just like to comment about the courses in which we have been involved thus far this year. Great value for \$40 already!

First term saw us studying Religions of the World with two very knowledgeable mentors, Doug and Hassanah Wilkinson. This course was informative, historically interesting and the information current in today's world. Personally, and this is Denise speaking, it led to me searching for further information on the Internet.

Term Two saw the pair of us join the Drawing Class, under the wonderful tutelage of artist, Ingrid Olsen, who managed to foster skills where we thought there were none. Such was the rapport between artist and the group that the students have decided to continue the class even though Ingrid is on holiday. We just support each other.

Jenny and I are involved, this term, in two courses - Drawing and Exercise for Seniors (under the guidance of Leonie Ingram). Both these classes we find fulfilling, stimulating and therapeutic. The added bonus is that you meet wonderful, friendly people!

We would recommend any of the above courses to other members."

Jenny & Denise

Here I am, wanting to brush up on my French. Sitting around the table at Beaconsfield House with a number of French-language-loving companions and ready to be 'taught'. Surprise, surprise! Very quickly I realise this is not at all like a high school French class. Yes, we do have a teacher but she is not at all an expert. In fact, there is much that she doesn't know and she is wonderfully upfront with that, inviting us to explore the French language along 'with her' rather than 'from her'. The students frequently add to, improve or even correct her writings on the board and in the end teaching and learning French becomes a collective effort. This is really a leisurely and fun way of learning and interacting with each other. I don't know about other classes, but I do hope these are similarly fun and leisurely to be part of.

Lodi

SPRING PROGRAMME

The Spring Programme has just been sent out to all members. I think you will all agree that it is an exciting programme and includes something for everyone. The length of the courses vary from 6 weeks to 4 weeks with some courses just continuing as participants are having so much fun they just don't want a break! Also, we have thrown in some short courses, a monthly book club and a couple of Talks.

Members wishing to attend any of these classes **must** register first as some classes have a limit on the number of participants attending.

Please tell your friends about TVU3A and the classes we are offering. **Remember, the \$40 annual membership fee is valid for one year from the month of joining. So, those wishing to take advantage of our Spring Programme can join now and their membership will be valid for the next 12 months. A reminder will be sent to all members when their subscription becomes due.**

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Margaret Armour
Margaret Genders
Rosemary Kerrison
Joan Perks
John Phelan

TAMAR VALLEY U3A HAS JOINED FACEBOOK!

TVU3A has taken the big leap and joined Facebook! We encourage members to visit the site and upload a pic from a recent holiday; provide feedback on our courses; make suggestions for other courses and make any comment that you think members might enjoy reading or adding to.

The following link will take you directly to our page:

<http://www.facebook.com/tamarvalleyu3a/>

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME!

We reserve the right to edit material submitted for publication. Copyright of the original material remains with the author.

THANK YOU TO WEST TAMAR COUNCIL

Thank you to West Tamar Council for providing the TVU3A with a community grant. This grant has been used to provide the office with much needed office equipment. The Council also continues to provide assistance with photocopying of the Newsletter and course programmes. Their continued support is much appreciated.

REGISTRATION DATES FOR SPRING PROGRAMME

October 14 – Beaconsfield House, Grubb Street, Beaconsfield
(see page 2 for more information)

October 18 - 10.00am – 12 noon at Tresca, Main Road, Exeter

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OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday 10.00am – 1pm