

# President's Annual Report for period 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008

*Presented at the Annual General Meeting on 13 November 2008*

THIS IS my last report to the members as your President and it is time for me to reflect on the past five years of my tenure. When I assumed the position we were in the middle phase of our Memorandum of Understanding with the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. This arrangement delivered excellent educational and financial opportunities to the membership and it has become a matter of regret that the joint association ended in December 2006.

In 2007 we were fortunate to obtain office and classroom space in Ross House, which enabled us to continue with the overall program of learning. The ever-increasing interest in computer courses was thankfully still accommodated within RMIT computer facilities.

For any organization that wishes to grow, strategic planning is vital. In the first half of this year we produced a planning document that defined the main goals for U3A City between now and 2010. Basically they are to INCREASE FUNDING, GROW THE MEMBERSHIP, INCREASE VOLUNTEERING, SOURCE NEW TUTORS, and EXPAND ACCOMMODATION. Efforts in all these directions are in hand. We acquired well over two hundred new members during the year. There has been a pleasing response to appeals for more volunteers and also for new tutors. We have a working group now focusing on new funding opportunities. And we have links with some new accommodation providers, including the City Library and the Hub at Docklands.

Committee change is inevitable but fortunately the role of course coordinator has been very stable. I'm indebted firstly to **Jill Clark** and then **Jill Thompson** for the professionalism they have brought to this position. The time and effort required in obtaining quality tutors for a varied program is enormous and we are indeed fortunate that their talents enabled us in 2008 to provide 46 ongoing courses and 30 short courses. Along with all members I give them both our sincere thanks.

Another source of satisfaction has been the excellent attendance at our quarterly forums. All speakers have in their own way been interesting and amusing in their chosen topic. My thanks to **John Besley** who used his wide network of contacts in the community to obtain such informative speakers.

We are fortunate to have a very able treasurer in **Jim Norton** whose diligence and attention to detail has ensured a solid financial position. The implication of increased membership on our rental costs is self-evident and Jim has the capability to give wise advice on rental affordability in the CBD.

Once again **Val Pincus** has gone out of her way to offer a socially inclusive program of outings to various venues including to the Arts Centre, the NGV Art Deco exhibition, the Victorian Tapestry Workshop and the Australian Garden at Cranbourne. Val also organised our Winter Luncheon in August, which was very successful.

On the administration side, we are all indebted to committee members **Ailsa Miles, Eva Meredith, Anne Riddell, Helena Ling** and **Margaret Rees** for their work in keeping the wheels turning and improving the efficiency of the office. An office review during the year was instrumental in streamlining some procedures and in developing the new membership forms, which are now providing us with useful information as a basis for further planning. Anne is also responsible for our *City News* newsletter, which we value highly.

My thanks also to **Jack Turner, Joyce Bromage, George Boag, Mary Horsfall** and **Peter Salmon** for their various contributions as members of the 2008 committee. And on a sad note, we were all deeply shocked by the untimely death of **David Phillips** who had only recently joined the committee. David was well known within the circles of Melbourne University and on his retirement became a volunteer tutor with U3A City. His appointment was meant to bring a great education talent to us and we looked forward to a long association with him.

Whilst I thank all committee members for their loyalty and support during my tenure, I must pay special tribute to **Ailsa Miles** for the many hours of secretarial work she performs. Ailsa has seen Presidents come and go and for me she has always presented clear-cut committee minutes and conclusions. This is an attribute acquired from Ailsa's many years of working in the corporate field.

Let me also acknowledge and thank the various volunteers from the general membership who have contributed so much to our organisation during this and past years, particularly in providing friendly helpful service in the office.

Two years ago the committee introduced a life membership category to acknowledge long and distinguished service to U3A City. The first recipient was **Nan Wingfield**, followed by **John Cramp** and **Marie Einoder** in 2007. I'm more than pleased to say that this year membership has been granted to **Joyce Bromage, Lillian Emmanuel** and **Alan Liubinas**. Many members will know the achievements and applaud the recognition of these fine people.

Future planning requires continued thought and priority of ideas. In reading newsletters from other U3As, many appear to be linking with their local Councils and branches of universities with the aim of providing increased learning opportunities for members. I do hope that a future committee will eventually be able to forge a link with a higher institution of learning. The mutual benefit to both could be considerable, and the possibility of classroom space within a city location is one to be pursued.

May I wish the future President and committee every success.

**Barry Fenton**

13 November 2008

**U3A CITY OF MELBOURNE INCORPORATED**  
**Corporate Registration No. A0045765E**

**Summary Of Income & Expenditure For The**  
**12 Month Period Ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

		<b><u>Financial Year</u></b>
		<b><u>2007 – 2008</u></b>
		\$
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
U3A Network		10,835
Membership fees		23,460
Bank & investment interest		6,957
Sage Travel		<u>2,000</u>
		<u>43,252</u>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>		
Australia Post		2,750
Photocopying		1,583
Printing		5,073
Ross House rent		23,496
Other rent		10,998
Forum and social activities		1,690
Office supplies		1,138
Tutors supplies		1,086
Telstra		1,138
U3A Network membership		827
Miscellaneous		175
Asset value write-off		<u>3,345</u>
		<u>53,299</u>

**Balance Sheet For The**  
**Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

<b><u>Current Assets</u></b>		<b><u>Liabilities</u></b>	
Bank	7,876	Opening equity 1/10/07	95,586
Investment	<u>88,105</u>	Less deficit for year to	
Sub total	<u>95,981</u>	30/09/08	<u>10,047</u>
		Equity at 30/09/08	<u>85,539</u>
<b><u>Fixed Assets</u></b>	0	Provision for unpaid	
		accounts	10,442
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<u>95,981</u>	<b><u>Total liabilities</u></b>	<u>95,981</u>