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President's Report ~ AGM 22 February, 2016

I am proud to be presenting the first President's report for U3A Wynyard, because we have all achieved so much over a short period. In the words of our first Interim President, Janet Sell, "The launch of U3A Wynyard was held in February 2015 with around 70 people attending. Classes started in early March and during Term 1 we held a total of 11 Courses, 2 Open Forums and one Folk Dance! These were delivered by 17 volunteer tutors plus a group of medical students who were visiting Wynyard for a week. Some classes attracted 10 – 12 members, (Col's bird identification got 17!) but the weekly class numbers averaged around 8... "

The Interim Committee members achieved a lot in a short space of time. In addition to setting up the Courses for Term 1, they developed the Constitution; become an incorporated body, joined U3A NSW (to take advantage of the insurance scheme) and the Tasmanian Alliance of U3As to gain ideas and linkages.

By May we were ready to hold a Special General meeting in order to formalise our interim status. I was dropped in as your President and after a few weeks with a little confusion and reluctance, I was dropped even further to remain in the Treasurer role! By June we had set about fine tuning a workable data base and Course program planning was well underway for our second Semester. Enrolments began in mid-August and your Committee was busy again after only a brief reprieve.

We developed and endorsed two Policies as part of a growing suite of Governance documentation. (Waiver of membership fees and Reimbursement) We upgraded our enrolment and member templates; thanks to Mervyn and Rees a high quality Newsletter is written, produced and distributed each Term and our Website is a portal to be proud of and it has even proven to be manageable from remote parts of India!

Our second Term promoted 14 Courses, dropping to 13 when folks didn't seem to be ready yet for the effort and skill of Fast Walking. Serendipity remains an extremely popular series of mind stretching delights and despite its difficulty in managing the numbers, the program managers persevere because this is typical of today's world. We must be willing to accept changes and constantly adapt!

A Seniors Week Special proved to be a day of variety, fun and laughter. And even more of that as we celebrated the end of our first year with a variety of activities based on the courses we had just completed.

We jumped from a member base of 34 in Term one to 72 by Term 2.

Let's double that in this next year! We are starting out with a record 18 Courses on offer! This demonstrates the extraordinary talent we have in our region.

That leads me to say thank you to all of our tutors; of course U3A Wynyard would not happen without you! And unlike the old school world, we don't seem to hear a bad word about our tutors!

We must also acknowledge the staff at Wynyard Linc who have willingly allowed us to invade the Library space with our Newsletters and enrolment forms etc. and even to set up camp there for 2 hours during our enrolment time.

The Waratah-Wynyard Council provided us with a start-up Grant of \$750 and I am pleased to say that they have again supported us with a Grant of \$1800 that will allow us to purchase equipment: a data projector, screen, laminator and a guillotine

A huge round of applause for our untiring and talented Committee! Each one of these people have contributed far more than just sitting in on Committee meetings. I mentioned Mervyn briefly before but he really is the Godfather of our Website, spending many hours to get it near perfect and similarly in producing an informative and bright Newsletter. Sherry has spent many hours producing an Excel Spreadsheet that we can easily refer to in setting up our Courses and in checking on numbers. Rees is an amazing back up person for us all and leads the way in managing the Courses; Jeremy has been the Venue organiser and negotiator; De and Di have provided administrative hours and many excellent ideas and the one who has contributed the most hours and enthusiasm – as always – the amazing Janet Sell!

Thank you, one and all!

I wish the incoming Committee pleasure in service, ease of operation and continued success!