

## President's Communique – February 2024

Dear Presidents and Secretaries

As we leap into 2024 your Network committee is already working through the changes that will take place for Incorporated Associations in the coming months. These changes impact Network as well as your local U3A. It is timely to say again that Network is an advisory body only, it is not a governing body. Your own Management Committee is solely responsible for the decisions and the management of your U3A.

Please read the [document outlining the changes here](#) and consider carefully the steps that your U3A needs to take to remain or become compliant. The topics outlined in the document are as follows:

- Dispute Resolution Procedures
- Remuneration Disclosure
- Audits and Verification of Financial Statements
- Australia Tax Office Requirements

Registrations have now opened for the 2024 Qld Network State Conference. Hosts U3A Beaudesert have been working hard to organize this event to be held 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> May in the beautiful Scenic Rim. Full details are on the Network website <https://u3aqld.au>. Also outlined on the website is the information on the Art and Photo Competition. The competition has been organized by U3A Beaudesert and the winners will be announced at the Conference Dinner. Please share this information with your members.

Have you taken advantage of the “favourable pricing” with Officeworks? This has been organized by U3A Australia Ltd and is operating on a national level. If you haven't joined up and you purchase goods from Officeworks, it is a way for savings to come your way. The details of how to register can be found on the U3A Australia website <https://u3aaustralia.org.au>

Other national initiatives on the drawing board are in the Technology Field. More to follow on this. Now completed and signed is the MOU with COTA Australia and U3A Australia Ltd giving rise to a greater collaboration on matters that benefit Older People in Australia.

Our publicity guru, Greg Doolan is calling for you to send him landscape images from your location. Greg likes to our great state each month by featuring different banners on our Facebook page. If you want to see your location and your U3A starring, email your photos to [publicity@u3aqld.au](mailto:publicity@u3aqld.au)

Many of you are soon to hold your AGMs. I hope your U3A is one that can happily say that you have a full committee. If not and you are facing the current and ever-increasing dilemma of finding volunteers to manage your U3A, it is timely to remind our members that there are so many positives to volunteering. “Volunteers do not necessarily have the time: they have the heart”. Very true.

Membership numbers are now in and Larry Frazer our Treasurer is happy to announce that there has been an increase in membership across Queensland during 2023. At 21,339 we are still not back to pre-covid days however this is an increase of 4.1% on 2022.

I look forward to catching up with you all in the beautiful Scenic Rim at the Beaudesert conference.



Rhonda Weston AM  
President

U3A Network Queensland