

ASPLEY CLASSES FOR SENIORS

Aspley Classes for Seniors are sponsored by

- *Aspley Uniting Church, 748 Robinson Road, Aspley*
- *Our Lady & St Dymphna's Catholic Church, 479 Robinson Road, Aspley*
- *Aspley-Albany Creek Anglican Parish (The Church of the Resurrection), 30 Ridley Road, Bridgeman Downs*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON 2018 ACTIVITIES

This report outlines achievements in our 24th year of operation

Management Committee

The committee was depleted this year by the untimely resignations of the remaining Anglican representatives Gail and John Raine and of the long time AUC representative and past president David Provan. Their valued contributions are highly acknowledged.

The serving management committee for 2018 was comprised of:

Patron	<i>Vacant</i>
Parish Clergy	Fr John Panamthottam, Rev Sandra Jebb, Fr Nicholas Whereat
Chairman	Barrie Bamkin
Vice-Chairman	<i>Vacant</i>
Secretary	Ailsa Martin
Treasurer	Harley Juffs
Members	David Provan (till mid-year), Ruth Volter, Marie Phillips, Peter Hislop, Brian Hopewell, David Pearce (Web Manager)

Management/Administration

The managerial/administrative side of ACFS has not fared well this year and this remains the weakness in the present ranks. While our operation provides for the executive plus three representatives from each of the member churches Our Lady & St Dymphna's Aspley Parish, Aspley Uniting Church and Aspley-Albany Creek Anglican Parish, and also community representatives, we are well under strength. As well as their representative duties in aiding the direction of ACFS activities, the original concept was that they would be hands on in providing a venue convener role of venue setup, liaison with and linking of committee, tutors, and classes, meeting their needs and providing the conduit for information and documentation flow, and fees collection. In addition, there has been no occupant of the vice-chairman position nor a line of potential succession to the executive positions.

I am resigning at the end of 2018 which leaves the committee without Chair or Deputy-chair. An Expression of Interest is being issued for the Chair position. I am disappointed that I have not been able to stem the loss of committee members nor recruit new.

Tutors and Classes

It was a year of gains & losses class-wise. We were able to add much needed language classes in beginner's French and Italian. Both together with the continuing more advanced French class were well attended. German class also continued successfully and Russian language class

made some gains, providing a good language portfolio. Spanish remains a desired addition but no tutor can be found. We are fortunate in having competent tutors shown by good attendances. The Piano Club although small is a worthwhile addition and the Reading Group has reached the maximum viable size.

Line Dancing, Mah Jong and Watercolours are very popular and also nearing capacity. The latter two, held on Fridays, are able to meet & socialise over morning tea – an important feature of classes introduced by our founders. It is the social factor that outweighs the activities of the classes but the two together are powerful purposes for our existence, and incentive for all volunteer contributors.

Computer classes saw some increase in numbers but remain variable. A valuable addition was a backup tutor for tutor absences.

A yoga class could not be reinstated despite a promising indication earlier in the year. Unfortunately a previous tutor will be unavailable due to family commitments – a disappointment to many students. Attempts to attract recent graduates seeking work experience has also been unsuccessful.

Advertising

Program distribution to churches, surgeries, libraries and other centres visited by seniors, together with advertising in the local papers, our website and word of mouth are our major means of bringing our wares to community notice. A significant setback has been the refusal by many libraries, both BCC & Moreton Shire, to accept and display our programs. We are seeking to have this waived if we can but are so far unsuccessful. The effectiveness of these methods continues to be reviewed.

Class Attendances

Total full-time enrolments over the 4 terms was 741 (average 185 per term) and in addition several casual attendances. This is approximately the same as for 2017.

By judgement our customer satisfaction rating remains high.

Vale

Sadly, two of our friends passed away recently. May Bruton was our valued Secretary for several years and also an important member of the Russian language class. Maurice Lynch stepped in to rescue the Watercolour classes for a few years. His retirement for health reasons presented the usual vacuum which we were able to fill after a relatively short time. We appreciate the contributions they both made to ACFS values.

ACFS Sunday

This Sunday service with focus on the outreach to senior members of the community was again held in each of the three member churches. A new short video of class activities was made by Meaghan for inclusion in the program.

Funds Grant

We were successful in receiving funds from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for a hands-free microphone system for Line Dancing, a replacement projector and a secure cabinet which benefit our classes and activities.

Website

Our website is updated and improvements added by David Pearce. Our encouragement of its use for information and communication is having effect as more use is occurring. The objective of eliminating the distribution of printed programs in the traditional way is constantly under review.

Similarly use of email directly, via the website response channel and our Community Directory membership is increasing. We are using email distribution of notices, advice of class cancellations and changes to class members where possible while conscious of privacy aspects.

Facebook is under consideration as another communication avenue, and inclusion in some of our political representatives facebook information pages is also under consideration.

Open Days

A week of open days was trialed when visitors could view classes in action and chat with tutors and class members over morning and/or afternoon teas as a means of enhancing our profile and showcasing to the public. Reasonable success was achieved with some new students and socialising among classes. A special thanks to those who contributed.

Annual Lunch

The Annual Lunch, held at end of third term, was relocated this year to The Tavernetta Function Centre where on a value for money basis we were able to keep the price reasonable, other venues having increased prices substantially. The attendance was similar to that last year with clergy and elected representatives or their nominated replacements were invited.

The Russian and Line Dancing classes again provided entertainment activities which were well received. Thanks to those organisers and participants.

Appreciation

In leaving Aspley Classes for Seniors I have been privileged to work with so many volunteers who have helped to create a happy environment and for the friends I have made over the many years. There are many to thank including:

- ❖ Church leaders and elected representatives for their willingness to assist;
- ❖ Treasurer Harley and Secretary Ailsa with whom I have successfully worked closely; Harley has provided advice and helpful editing in many ways;
- ❖ All committee, venue conveners and assistants in all categories who have contributed to our successful enterprise;
- ❖ All Tutors and assistants for energy, willingness and developing that much needed class rapport;

- ❖ All students who add to a happy social atmosphere and appreciate the services that enhance their senior years.

New Chairperson

Virtually as a footnote Ken Beer has accepted the Chair position and will be formally nominated in 2019. Ken's acceptance has been welcomed as a blessing at this time of real need. I am confident Ken can bring new initiatives to ACFS & wish him success and satisfaction supported by his deep dedication to service.

Barrie Bamkin
Chairman
25 January 2019