



Rosemary

After the Management Committee meeting a farewell tea party for Rosemary was held with tea and a scrumptious cake. Rosemary joined U3A in 1995 and has been a stalwart in the back office and courses co-ordinator for many years. Erika aptly described her as being the “go to lady”, someone who could be depended on to help wherever and whenever she was asked.

A number of members who have known Rosemary for many years were invited to share their memories of her.

Liz described Rosemary as a “valuable” friend. Someone who has always been there for her, always willing to help whenever needed, the “dearest” of friends.

Olive said “What one says of Rosemary will never be enough. I know if Rosemary is present, things will be Ok. She has all the knowledge and experience to deal with any issue or solve any problem. She has the presence to clear the sometimes muddy waters. Such is Rosemary.

No matter how busy she is, she always has time to listen and help. Be they a visitor, a volunteer or a member they are treated with equal respect and courtesy.

I hope to see her continuing to tread the corridors of U3a Benteigh for some time to come. As Kahil Gibran said in his book *The Prophet* ‘For that which you love most in him is clearer in his absence, as the mountain to the climber is clearer from the plain.’

Neville recalled an incident that occurred a few years before Covid when he thought they were kindred spirits in as much that Rosemary was struggling with recruiting course tutors, scheduling them into classrooms on certain days of the week and time of day.

Neville had a similar situation with trying to set up staffing for the front office. He noted how calm and unfazed Rosemary was and wondered how well she slept at night. Her reply was “no trouble at all, I just take a glass of WHISKY before bed and sleep like a lamb! Neville followed her advice, though starting somewhat earlier, and rostering was never the onerous task it had been again!

Val said “When I became involved in the U3A Membership system and spent more time at the office, I called Rosemary “The Boss of the back office” because of her knowledge. She did such a fantastic job of running it. She will be missed.”

Pauline said “When I first joined U3A I found that Rosemary was often a fellow member of the Classes I attended and I was in awe of her general knowledge on so many subjects. I also found after I joined the Management Committee and when I served for terms in Executive positions, Rosemary was a source of great information and help in getting to know the workings of the Administration of U3A Moorleigh (now Benteigh). I shared many happy times in the “Back Office” in conversation with Rosemary as I found she had the same interests in those subjects “one should never discuss around the dinner table”, our favourite being Politics.

May Rosemary enjoy a long and interesting retirement, attending lots of great classes at U3A.

John said “Rosemary has always been cautious initially about changes but when the changes have been made she is able to adapt and embrace them.”

From us all. Thank you, Rosemary, for your efficiency, dedication and loyalty to U3A Benteigh and to all those who have had the good fortune to have worked with you over the years. We all hope to see you gracing the passages and classrooms of our U3A very often in the future.

