

U3A Southern Highlands

Policies on Charitable, Political and Commercial Activities

The Rationale

Over the years there has been a basic understanding amongst members that U3A Southern Highlands (U3ASH) does not support any particular cause, charity or commercial enterprise. As membership continues to grow rapidly the Management Committee (the Committee) believes it is time to formalise this understanding so that all members are aware of it.

U3A Southern Highlands (U3ASH) is an independent, non-political organisation focussed on providing opportunities for teaching and learning amongst its members. The membership of U3ASH is wide and varied and it is unlikely that it would give unanimous support to any political, charitable or commercial group or organisation. The U3ASH Management Committee is not in a position to speak on behalf of the membership except with respect to the primary purposes of U3A – a role that the membership has delegated to the Committee to carry out.

The Policies

In order to guide its conduct, the Committee of U3ASH has developed three policies to govern some of the common issues that arise between Members, Course Leaders and the wider community. These are set out below:

1. U3ASH does not support any political party, group, or organisation and will not allow its membership to be knowingly used or engaged in political activity.
 - a. U3ASH will not advertise political information or support rallies, protests and the like, and does not allow its name or classes to be used in a way that could be construed to support such an activity.
 - b. Members shall not use classes, class lists, membership lists or the U3ASH's Management System, including the website emailing facility, to contact other members to promote any political event, unless written approval has been given by the Committee in advance.
 - c. The Committee will not make any donations to a political party, or special interest group, where it can be construed as supporting the broad aims of the group.
2. U3ASH does not support any charity organisation, either permanent or special purpose, in such a way as could be construed as supporting the aims and aspirations of such a charity.
 - a. Members shall not use classes, class lists, membership lists or the U3ASH Management System to contact other members to promote

any charity or event, unless written approval has been given by the Committee in advance.

- b. The Committee, from time to time, may approve the involvement of a performance class such as Buskers or the Choir, in a charitable event provided that any advertising for this event makes clear that the U3ASH group is just appearing in, but not promoting the event. U3ASH Members appearing in the event should not be expected to pay any admission cost being charged for entry.
 - c. U3ASH class time shall not be used for the seeking of donations for a charity.
3. U3ASH does not support the use of facilities, classes, or communication systems for sales, promotion, or advertising related to commercial ventures or events. This does not prevent U3ASH from programming classes where the Course Leader may have a business in, or related to, the topic of the course.
- a. Courses should be based on issues of interest or knowledge for the members and not with the intent of generating business for the Course Leader.
 - b. It is generally acceptable that an incidental commercial activity may occur as part of a course. For example, this may arise where a writer may have released a book which may be for sale in conjunction with the course. In this case, the Course Leader should make the sales themselves and no U3ASH Member of the course should be allocated to the Course Leader to assist in the ancillary commercial activities.
 - c. Course Leaders shall not use the U3ASH Management System to promote commercial activity either prior to, during or after the course has been presented.
4. The Wise Owl newsletter shall not be used to advertise any third party political, charitable or commercial activities, without the prior written approval of the Committee.
- a. Members shall not make commitments to other parties that an activity or event will be published in the Wise Owl or posted on U3ASH's website.