

It is with sadness that I advise formally that ADFAS Riverina has voted to close effective immediately. This decision was debated and approved by our membership at our AGM on Tuesday November 13, 2023.

In reaching this decision, the members took into account:

- our current membership numbers (60) compared to pre COVID numbers of 100 plus
- the cost of running the society compared to its income
- the use of reserves to meet approximately 50% of our 2023 running costs
- the potential inability to meet our 2024 costs even with using the remaining reserve funds
- the likelihood that if we do not close, ADFAS Riverina would be in the same position at its AGM in 2024 with no reserve funds.
- Declining attendance at our lectures with numbers between 35 and 45 meaning quite a number of our members are not attending

Our members also took into account:

- our AGM of 2022 whereby 2023 was considered the “year of recovery”
- the incredible hard work by our 2023 committee to increase membership and visitor attendance
- the Special General Meeting in October 2023 where members were advised of our still ongoing membership and costs issues and input from them was sought as to future directions and ideas for renewal

In essence, the membership considered that rather than run our funds down to the point of not being able to continue post 2024, it would be preferable to meet all of our financial commitments for 2024 and disburse remaining funds to our usual local Young Arts facilitators – Wagga Art Gallery and Riverina Conservatorium of Music. In other words, “leave a legacy”.

Our AGM was attended by 30 members or about half of our membership. The voting was 28 for closure, one against and one abstaining. It is worth noting that several of the members attending were those who started ADFAS Riverina and several of the early chairs and committee members. As well, no person spoke against the motion.

It is also worth noting that I was the only male attending.

A committee has been elected so as to allow for the closure to be formally undertaken including authorising payments and to take all necessary steps to legally wind up ADFAS Riverina.

Tony Dobbin

Chair