

Enrolment at the Glasshouse

The Glasshouse, like it or not, is with us. Let us use and celebrate it. Enrolment Day on July 28th will be held in the Glasshouse meeting rooms. They will give us a fresh ambience for this routine day and offer some accompanying attractions.

The meeting rooms are on the third level. You can reach the level by taking the lift right at the Clarence Street entrance or by entering through the Art gallery and walking up the stairs to level three. At the end of the corridor outside the meeting rooms is the wide foyer of the theatre from whence you get a great view of the river. The meeting rooms themselves are



Glasshouse, Port Macquarie

carpeted and equipped and will provide a pleasant area for enrolment to take place in the usual manner with tables around the room. New members will join at tables in the broad corridor outside the meeting rooms. This area will also provide space

for chats. The coffee shop is not yet open but there are ample shops nearby to dally afterwards or meet beforehand. Best parking is probably in Port Central which is only a short walk around the corner.

Tours of the Glasshouse will be available for U3a members at 12.00, 2.00 and 3.00. If you would like the tour you should register for it, preferably before the day, by ringing Robyn Morgan on 6584-9455. Maximum number for each tour is 15 so get in early. If there are still vacancies there will be a table outside the meeting room where you can register for a tour.

Remember – you can enter the Glasshouse from 1.00pm and enter the meeting rooms from 1.15. Enrolment will be from 1.15 to 2.45pm. ■

A much travelled convenor – Gabriel (Lin) Van Copenhagen

After travelling extensively around South Africa, my country of birth, at age 23, I moved to Europe and worked as a tour guide for a few years. While running 6-week long European camping tours for 18 to 28 year olds, I fell in love with that region and became a dedicated explorer of new countries and cultures. Prue, who hails from Tasmania and Canberra was a passenger on one of my tours and after raising 5 children we have managed 7 more trips to Europe totalling more than a year in length, 4 to the USA totalling 8 months, 2 to Canada, 2 to South America, 5 back to South Africa, tours of Alaska, Kenya, Bermuda, The British Isles, to Ireland twice, Mauritius, Corsica, New Zealand, Tahiti, Fiji, Bali, Lombok, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

We have explored Australia extensively having crossed the Nullarbor 17 times, spent about a year in Tasmania (5 trips) fly fishing for the elusive trout, toured the Kimberley and Pilbara, fished the West, East and South Coasts from Broome to Cairns and loved every moment of it. We have yet to do the Red Centre and Darwin



Prue and Gabriel (Lin) van Copenhagen with their BMW touring bike up at 2,469 metres (8,024 ft) at the summit of the Great St. Bernard Pass on the border of Switzerland and Italy.

(this is next after Norway). We consider ourselves so lucky to have seen so much and we love to swap travel experiences stories and pictures. ■

REMINDER – ENROLMENT DAY

Tuesday 28 July 2009 1.15 - 2.45pm at the Glasshouse meeting rooms, level 3, Port Macquarie.



All the world's a stage

Drama is Life. Something happens – action. It happens to somebody – a character. It happens somewhere and some time – situation. The place contains objects and the persons wear items – clothes and cosmetics. The characters have intentions; there are obstacles and risks – conflict. The tension builds to a crisis – climax. It is resolved, or not – denouement. The drama will have meaning and significance – theme. But it will also be interesting – entertainment.

Drama becomes theatre. The fictional action is found in a script – the play.

Actors impersonate the characters – they perform the action. There is a special place – a stage and perhaps a Theatre. The stage represents a place – scenery. The actors impersonation is aided by change of appearance and use of objects – costume, make-up, mask, and props. The language is heightened, maybe even

poetic, and the action is given impact with special lighting, music, sound and special effects. There is a special occasion and, vitally, an audience. We may not all go to the Glasshouse or any formal theatre, but we have all shared these experiences, as participants and audience – from childhood games (note the congruence of the word play) to nativity plays in primary school, to High School musicals, to sporting spectacles, to social rituals such as weddings, to amateur presentations, to the spin-off forms of television and film. Drama and theatre meet a human need – a need to make sense of and find interest in our lives and our society, and to come together in doing so. And always it is entertaining.

An analysis of all these phenomena will be found in a new course for U3A offered this term. The course, like theatre itself, will strive to be entertaining as well as informative. It will be convened by Des Davis, who has had a long career both as a professional practitioner in and teacher of theatre, assisted by Faye Montgomery (Davis) who has been also a professional actor. The course will invite, but not demand, participation by the class members, and include illustration, photos, and scenes from plays to be enacted. No previous experience beyond life is required. ■

Open Day ideas

At the Open Day the following courses were requested during the forum: More languageseg Italian&Spanish;Philosophy and Ethics; Short story writing, Public speaking; Modern geography; Walking group; Book Review; Health topics; Peoples’ work-life; The Environment and our future. Check current offerings for some like courses. It would be great to have all these courses. The catch of course is getting convenors. U3A can only offer courses which someone has agreed to convene. There must be people out there in our membership with expertise adequate enough to convene these courses. Remember the old teachers adage, “you only need to be one step ahead of your class.” Try your hand first with a short course – one or two weeks, build your confidence, then go for something longer.

Many issues of communication were raised at the open day – communication

with potential new members and the community, and communication to existing members. For the former, the Publicity sub-committee is drawing up plans, for the latter, we could communicate more often if we could use email. The suggestion was made that those without an email could find a buddy with the facility so that we could reach everybody by this cheap and quick method. ■

Bring a friend to class



MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE:

If you would like to bring a friend, who you feel would be interested in becoming a

Member of U3A, to your class on the ONE occasion, please do. Please advise your Tutor of your intention.

NOTE: They could then go on to join U3A; Membership Forms are available at the town Library. If there is a vacancy in your class once they are a member they can then come along again.

We have a new name!

You will notice the new logo on the front page. This is the result of the successful passage of the motions at the Special General Meeting which preceded Open Day. The motions were:

- 1) It was resolved that the name of the Association be changed from Hastings Valley U3A Inc. to “Port Macquarie Hastings U3A Inc.”
- 2) It was resolved that rule 12 (1) of the Constitution of the HVU3A be deleted and replaced with “The committee shall consist of the office bearers of the Association and 6 ordinary committee members, each of whom is to be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Association under rule 13.” ■

Open Day a “success”

Our first open day July 2nd was voted a success by all attending. Attendance far exceeded expectations. Some 78 had pre-registered but about 125 turned up including 20 potential new members responding to the publicity in the Port Macquarie News. The strain was felt only at morning tea when only one urn meant a long queue. This problem will be rectified next time. The scones were a hit!

Members had an opportunity to express their views on our U3A and many useful ideas for the future emerged (see elsewhere in the Newsletter). Requests for courses, comments on venues, suggestions for publicity and better communications were all noted by the committee for trial and action.

After morning tea, we heard interesting presentations from Matthew Wallace on Astronomy, Christine Battison on Folk Dancing and Faye Davis on Acting, culminating in a “party piece” performance by Faye which was much enjoyed. ■

Membership Records

We need to keep our records of members’ email addresses up-to-date. To help us check the information that we have, would you please send a message to checking@pmhu3a.org.au. Please include your name and, if possible, your membership number.

Brian Tolagson, convenor extraordinaire

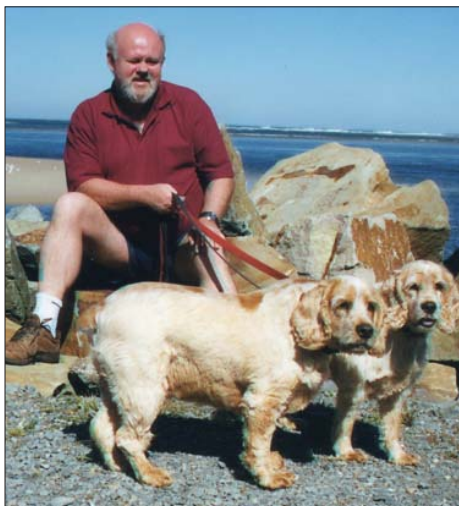
Brian was born in Los Angeles to an American father and Australian mother and was raised in Santa Cruz (California), Canberra and Hornsby.

He worked as a computer programmer and systems designer for MLC Life for many years finishing as an administration manager after 25 years.

During that time he also played guitar and bass in jazz and rock bands, became a keen tenpin bowler and continued an interest in writing and geography.

After moving to Port Macquarie in 1990 he worked as a retailer and bookkeeper before acquiring a plum job with National Parks and Wildlife as the education officer at Sea Acres. He took a degree in geography and resource management being awarded in 2002 with honors in physical geography as part of the Lake Innes archaeological research under way at that time. He is also a qualified trainer, workplace assessor and occupational health inspector.

He does a lot of community work. In the past he has been coordinator for the Young Achievers business skills program and a LandCare volunteer and committee man. He currently volunteers as an educator



Brian Tolagson with his charges.

with NSW Fisheries, a dog exerciser for RSPCA and competition secretary for the local writers' group.

For U3A he has presented courses since our third term in 2005. Subjects have ranged from earth systems, climate change, environmental issues and human geography.

This term he is offering two 8-week courses in human geography and three 2-hour discussions based on the format used by SBS in the Insight series. (See course descriptions pages 3 & 5.) ■

My experience with the U3A Geography group

Our Monday morning "Geography of Belief and Culture" is a very easy way to travel to many countries that many of us have not seen and probably never will. There is no waiting in airports, sitting for hours in very uncomfortable economy class seats and paying a small fortune for the privilege. Instead, we travel for free in air conditioned comfort with a set of meticulously researched notes relating to the subject of the day.

In Term 1 we explored Polynesia and Melanesia and last term Pacific South America. In 2008 we discussed Scandinavia, Russia, Ukraine, South Africa and the Western Mediterranean. Next term we are off to Mexico and Central America.

Many aspects of each culture are covered including geopolitics, history, arts, architecture, customs, daily living and economies; participation and discussion are encouraged.

So, if you fancy a trip with all the creature comforts to Mexico and Central America to learn about Olmecs, Mayans, Zapotecs, Toltecs or Aztecs for the paltry sum of \$8, we look forward to you booking your seat for Term 3 starting 3rd August. — Margaret Goddard



In answer to many requests for a "training" course in convening and/or presenting, Robert Morgan has agreed to present a course this term under the title "Present Like a Professional" (for times and venues, see Friday courses). Bob gave a very well received course in public speaking for our U3A in 2006 and he is well qualified to take this course.

He made a career shift to Management and Training Consultant from Manufacturing Manager and Director of a small public company after 35 years in the manufacturing industry. For 18 years his consultancy offered assistance

to organisations (mainly manufacturers) in development and maintenance of management systems for productivity enhancement, quality, OH&S and environmental control. The consultancy represented Paulson Training Programs (USA), the world's leading supplier of in-house technical training programs for the Plastics Industry and it owned the Sydney West franchise of Improved Communication Skills, which offered Speed Reading and Study and Essay Writing Skills courses for high school students and Speed Reading and Business Writing Skills to business houses.

In the 5 x 2-hour session workshop of "Present Like a Professional" participants will have the opportunity to hone their presentation skills and be able to assess a range of strategies and techniques, which apply equally to speaking to an audience as to conducting a learning session. The key elements of knowing why you are going to make a presentation and what

outcomes you expect will be the starting point. Doing homework and researching the topic will follow.

The course will discuss how to structure presentations so that audiences clearly understand the messages. Powerful closes, openings that demand attention, detail and data arranged logically and presented clearly in an interesting manner form the bulk of the subject matter of the program.

Because it is so well known that the majority of people have deep seated fears about presenting to an audience, the course will deal with this difficulty and talk about how to get the butterflies lined up in formation before working through presentation techniques.

We all receive messages in picture format. In this era we can enhance the mind pictures we transmit verbally with coloured visual displays very effectively by using Microsoft PowerPoint. ■

“Destinations” course tribute



George enjoying fishing.

Congratulations to President Des for both conceiving and putting flesh on such an outstandingly interesting and informative programme as “Destinations”.

Modern Australians instigated, no doubt by our far flung, remote location, are great travellers. This fact, coupled with the ease of travel, more particularly air travel, has virtually placed the world at our doorstep. Hence we take advantage of it.

Many of these travel destinations are not only of great interest to the participant but also to many others and U3A programmes such as “Destinations” are ideal mediums through which many

others may share in these experiences.

A happy, satisfied participant.

George Wallens

(See front page article on the next Destinations convenor.)

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ENROLMENT DAY – 28 July 2009
1.15 - 2.45pm at the Glasshouse
meeting rooms, Port Macquarie.

**ENROLMENT will not be
accepted for new courses prior
to the official enrolment day.**

**NOTE: We do not have the ability
to process postal enrolments.
Someone else may enrol for you.
In general, committee members
are do not undertake this role.**

**LATE ENROLMENT up to 3
weeks after the start of a course
are welcome in many courses.
You MUST contact the Course
Convenor to ascertain if additional
members are being accepted.**

For late enrolment, you pay only
for the rest of the term. Post your
remittance to the Treasurer with
a covering note and initial the
attendance form to show you
have paid. If less than \$5 is owed,

postage stamps will be accepted
as payment. Names cannot be
entered on the Attendance Sheet
unless accommodation fees have
been paid. Money cannot be paid
to the Course Convenor during the
term.

NAME BADGES – Any questions,
please contact the Membership
Secretary, Bob Gerdes, on **6584-
0377**. Members are requested
to wear your badges when
attending any U3A activity. **Write
your contact number on the
back of your badge in case of
emergency.**

CHANGE OF ADDRESS – Contact
the Secretary or Membership
Secretary if you move house and/
or change your email address.

**NEWSLETTER contributions are
welcome** – We reserve the right

to edit any material submitted for
publication. Copyright of all original
material remains with the author.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND PRIVACY

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having your photograph in the on-
line gallery (or in our Newsletter),
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make this fact known. We will
always respect your privacy but
must first be aware of your need.

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