

Port Macquarie Hastings U3A Update

The President of the Port Macquarie Hastings U3A, Des Davis, is having a spell in hospital and at last report was recovering well. He is wished a speedy recovery and return to the helm of the organisation.

This newsletter includes a **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL form**; it would really be appreciated if members could take the time to fill it in and send it with payment, or front up to the Treasurer before or after enrolling for Term 4 with the completed form and requisite dues. If membership has not been renewed by 31 December, according to the Port Macquarie Hastings U3A Inc. Constitution you cease to be a member. The mass of renewals on first term enrolment day makes for hard going for everybody.

The **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the PMHU3A Inc. is scheduled for **Tuesday 17 November 2009**; the notice and nomination form are included as a lift-out in the centre of this newsletter. The Committee consists of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and six Committee members. Committee members are given a role such as Course Co-ordinator, Publicity Officer, Membership Officer, and most Committee members have a role as a member of a sub-committee. There is quite a bit of effort involved in any Committee position. Members are encouraged to nominate if they feel they would like to contribute to the administration of the PMHU3A.

PLEASE NOTE: The AGM will be followed by a question time and discussion of U3A's future. Then a talk and presentation on Adventures in the Himalayas "**KUMBUHIMAL**" & **MERA PEAK** given by adventurer Michael Pearce.

At the August Committee meeting, Brian Tolagson and Maureen Johnston were appointed as Committee members to the two positions created by the recent amendment to the Constitution. Brian has a fairly public persona and many U3A members have attended one of his courses. Maureen,

however, runs an exclusive Club that has been going since inception of the U3A, and the waiting list for a place on her discussion panel grows longer each term. They have both taken up the slack already and are welcome additions to the Committee. Sue Clifford was appointed to the vacancy created by the resignation of Barry Owens. Sue brings special skills to the Committee as Publisher of the Newsletter and the proof is there for all to see.

The course brochure for Term 4 is included herein. You'll note a variety of courses on offer. Be sure to come along to **ENROLMENT DAY Tuesday October 20** at the Senior Citizens Centre, Munster Street, from 1.30 – 2.30pm to enrol. Classes begin the week of October 26th.

The **CONVENORS' CONFERENCE** on 30 September, resulted from the combined efforts of Brian Tolagson, Maureen Johnston and Eric Graham, and was very productive. The Committee and sub-committee will be sifting through all the suggestions, and expect to be implementing as many as required to make course delivery an easy and interesting experience for everybody.

Laurie Barber gave a scintillating speech on the vagaries of the English language and his experiences as a journalist.

The U3A relies heavily on Course Convenors without who very little would be possible. The time, input, enthusiasm, professional delivery of the course material and commitment they give make the PMHU3A a very vital organisation in our area. Course Convenors are the life blood of the association.

Over one hundred people attended the **OPEN DAY** held on 1 October and, again, much useful information was gleaned from this event. Gabriel (Lin) van Coppenhagen as Master of Ceremonies put in a sterling effort at short notice, and the contributions of the all participants were well received.

Eric Graham excelled himself and was

a worthy speaker, with his bountiful knowledge of history featuring William Bligh, Arthur Phillips and Mrs Elizabeth MacArthur. He tells his tales almost as if he were there.

The Sing Australia choir was superb and entertained the participants with many renditions some of which were evergreens while others provided an opportunity for enthusiastic sing-a-long. The scones were magnificent and the tea trolley set up worked well.

Many thanks to the organisers, members and guests who took part in the Open Day and made it such a successful venture. It is planned that the next Open Day will encourage members to 'Bring a friend' to give more members of the community some idea of what U3A is all about. ■

Open Day photos



Lin van Coppenhagen Delwyn Hatton



Eric Graham

Scones aplenty!



Sing Australia choir entertained us.

Convenors Plot New Course for U3A

A conference of 31 course convenors and the committee members met on September 30th at Tacking Point Tavern.

The conference aimed to –

1. thank those who put so much effort into U3A;
2. provide a forum for cross-pollination among convenors;
3. bridge any gap between the committee and convenors and through them with members;
4. plot future directions for our U3A.

For the first time we included a guest speaker, Laurie Barber, in our conference. Laurie entertained us with stories of word origins malapropisms and “pisonunciations”. Thank you, Laurie.

The plenary session produced a swathe of great suggestions about possible venues, course extensions. The committee will wade through marketing and course extensions in the ensuing months. Stay tuned.

— contributed by Brian Tolagson ■



Left, clockwise: Brian Tolagson, Maureen Johnston & Eric Graham conference organisers & Laurie Barber; guest speaker. Below: Plenary sessions at work.



Open Day October '09

One hundred and one Port Macquarie Hastings U3A members “Tacked around the Point” to the tavern to hear more about our U3A.

The morning would be interesting, a bit dull in spots, maybe, but hey! great to meet-up with friends and friendly acquaintances.

DULL! NOT SO!

Ursula, Del and Brian spoke lucidly and informatively. Lin van Copenhagen kept us “on track”.

Everyone wanted to be heard. Hands were flying up in all directions.

Questions were answered. Do we have enough venues? How will we advertise? Can we have a Philosophy course?

A lot about more music. What about more short courses?

There will be Italian next year, maybe more short courses from members.

“We all have a story to tell”, Leslie Smith.

Open Day congratulations

Thanks for your prompt reply, Sue, and super poster. Just the job. I will speak to the people concerned who put together the TV network here (at Dahlsford Village); they update it every Wednesday.

I am so pleased people can join this last term and it includes next year; I have been asked a fair bit about ‘pro rata’ rates.

I would like to congratulate the committee on the Open Day yesterday. It was informative, friendly (very evident in the number of people who asked questions quite freely) and fun too.

I didn’t know anyone on the committee, with the exception of Ursula so it was really a bonus that I was able to hear the

(continued from column 1)

Open Day was exciting. Sensing the level of high energy in that room one knows that our U3A has nowhere else to go but UP!

There were plenty of scones, jam & cream.

Committee, and some of the Convenors speak. (I instantly wanted to take up History.) A friend of mine came along with no knowledge of U3A except my limited experience, and I am relatively new; she was most impressed and I think you not only have a new candidate but a possible convenor too.

We all enjoyed the ‘Singers’ – what a nice end to the meeting.

Congratulations All!

Maureen Howie

P.S. The tea and scones scenario was most ‘decorous’ (as opposed to a total shambles) with enough scones to feed a battalion!!! ■

(continued from column 2)

Be there for the next Open day!

Des, we missed you & Faye. We wish you a speedy recovery.

Gwen Otten ■

My U3A experience

Retirement — what a dreadful word! I was working from the age of 16 in a giving and caring vocation when I decided it was time to retire.

Nothing prepared me for the huge gaps I found in my life. I no longer had like-minded people to supply mental stimulation.

OK, I walked everyday and did water aerobics. My body was being adequately stimulated but my brain wasn't.

Then I joined U3A. This saved the day. Now I can enjoy good company whilst using undiscovered mental resources in an atmosphere of fun, sharing and companionship.

Thanks, U3A.

Helen Fletcher ■

(From Bessie's writers' group)

Behind the headlines most enlightening!



Frank Jennings and wife Bessie (convenor of the Writing group).

When in town I look forward to my Friday class, "Behind the Headlines", with Frank Jennings.

As current affairs and politics have always interested me, Frank, with his experience as a former senior public servant in the Prime Minister's department, provides a unique insight into newspapers and media propaganda.

My fellow students amaze me with their knowledge, observations and enthusiasm,

which makes for interesting mornings with friendly rivalry and lots of fun. I always manage to come away having learned something new.

Some of us (while at the club) take the opportunity to lunch together afterwards, where lively discussions are often continued and many engaging stories told.

What better way, indeed, than to spend Friday mornings with us. Just \$8 will procure a seat for our fourth term. We look forward to welcoming you.

Brian Nicoll ■



U3A Folk Dancers entertained all on the Town Green at the Carnival of the Pines.

Ian Ridgeway's fascinating story of red cedar

On 10 September 2009 I attended a presentation by Ian Ridgeway on an obvious love of his – red cedar.

Ian had specimens of cedar wood for participants to see, feel and smell. His demonstration of immense knowledge on the subject matter was much appreciated by those attending.

Questions were encouraged and Ian played an excellent DVD on Bill Haydon, "The Cedar King" which concluded the informative session.

I would definitely recommend attending such a session if it is repeated.

Judy Thomson ■

Recently I attended a U3A "talk" at my special place, Maritime Cottage. A lovely gentlemen, Ian Ridgeway, gave a talk on cedar and it's history. Maybe you would like to put the following in the next Newsletter/courses info.

"Ian Ridgeway, you made a path for me to travel back in time. I marvelled at the strength of men and women and families. And, of your talent.

One of your childhood memories was similar to mine.

Thank you, "Cedar Man"; may you continue to fascinate.

Carole Hill ■



Left: U3A members Warren & Elaine Scott in France.

Above: A typical cottage in a French village. (Photo by Warren Scott.)

Thank you Vonnie

Veronica Norrie
Office Administrator
Port Macquarie-Hastings Library
Port Macquarie

The U3A Port Macquarie Hastings French Class would like to thank the Hastings Council for allowing the students learning French to use the rooms and facilities at the Library. A very special "merci beaucoup" to all the staff at the library who are always ready to assist. ■

A tribute to Celine

Mondays are very special for the students who attend French tuition at The Port Macquarie Library. Mrs. Celine Bird is a fine teacher who teaches conversation, comprehension and grammar. Moreover she delights the class when she chats about different French topics which include history, music, cuisine, literature, films, television etc. Mrs. Bird does this happily as she likes to help promote the French culture. "Merci beaucoup", Celine.

Maxine Taylor ■

Note: See more of Warren Scott's beautiful photos in future newsletters.

Learners live longer



U3A Learn Laugh Live
Port Macquarie Hastings
University of the 3rd Age

The Third Age can be the Best Age of all!

- you're over 50
- finished full time work
- the family is grown
- it's time to live and learn and try new skills

University of the 3rd Age ...

- voluntary, non-profit global organisation
- low cost educational opportunities
- no formal entry requirements
- no examinations

U3A Courses offer ...

- broad range of knowledge-based subjects
- life skills
- recreational interests
- discussion groups
- something for everyone

Enrol NOW ...
Membership application forms available from the reference desk at Council libraries in Port Macquarie and Wauchope or ...

Secretary:
Port Macquarie Hastings U3A Inc
PO Box 1210
Port Macquarie 2444

Phone: 6584 9455 or 6516 1037
Email: info@pmhu3a.org.au
Website: www.pmhu3a.org.au

The principles of self-help and mutual support are the very cornerstones of the U3A movement!

Our new U3A poster will be on display at U3A events in the Port Macquarie Hastings area. Keep an eye out for it!

Australian History compelling

For as long as I can remember I've had a passion for history. At school my favourite subjects were history, English and geography.

Whenever I moved to live in a new area, the first thing I did was to learn about the history of that region. Australia has been a bonanza for me, but my special interest right now is "pioneer women" – not the well-known or wealthy, but ordinary family women and convict women.

I currently work as a volunteer researcher at Port Macquarie Historical Society.

Audrey Willingale ■

How fights start —

My wife sat down on the settee next to me as I was flipping channels. She asked, "What's on TV?" I said "Dust."

And then the fight started....

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ENROLMENT DAY – 20 October 2009 1.30 - 2.30pm at the Senior Citizens Centre, Munster Street, 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 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

– If you have an objection to having your photograph in the on-line gallery (or in our Newsletter), please write to the Secretary and make this fact known. We will always respect your privacy but must first be aware of your need.

DISCLAIMER – Opinions expressed here or in PMHU3A activities are not necessarily those of PMHU3A or its officers. PMHU3A accepts no responsibility for statements or opinions expressed. PMHU3A offers courses that provide general information for its members. PMHU3A does not warrant that such information is true and correct.