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## NOTICE:

### OFFICE HOURS

#### RE-OPENING

**Monday 18th – 29 April 2011**

**9.30am – 2.00pm**

**Monday – Friday**

**Monday 2 May – 24 June**

**9.30am – 12 noon**

**Monday – Friday**

**Phone: 6584-3676**

**Web site: [www.pmhu3a.org.au](http://www.pmhu3a.org.au)**

Payment of membership fees and Enrolments for courses will be taken.

## Position Vacant

### Publicity Officer

Due to the resignation of our Publicity officer, we need a volunteer to fill the vacancy. If there's anyone with a background in publicity or PR, please give Robyn a ring on 6584-9455.

## The Big Move!

As just about everybody knows by now we are being evicted; or to put it more kindly, we have been asked to vacate our premises. They were on loan as it were, from the Catholic Diocese and our expectation, and theirs, was that our temporary occupation would become permanent. However, changed zoning thwarted their plans and they sold the property to Kmart. They tried to help us find alternatives but without success and so we have notice to vacate by June 30.

We have undertaken an intensive search for a solution and I will give you the details so that you can suggest any possibility we may have overlooked.

We have consulted the Diocese intensively (several meetings) They offered us buildings from the site which could be moved onto land and they offered us a piece of land. Unfortunately the land contained some old growth forest and the Native Vegetation Act would prevent any building on it. They offered us the Lourdes Complex but \$2,000,000 put it just a little out of our reach. One or two other prospects also proved totally unsuitable.

We consulted local members Rob Oakeshott and Peter Besseling. They were both very supportive. Oakeshott identified the situation as requiring a short term solution (office and perhaps one classroom) and a long term solution (our own premises, possibly custom designed). He suggested he could be more help with the latter but he did open some doors for us. Peter Besseling did likewise and so we talked to TAFE and the CAE. Both were sympathetic but could only offer casual rentals which could not solve the essential need for an office. The Maritime Museum was a more hopeful prospect and we are still negotiating a possibility there.

We met with Gary Payne and a posse of Council Officers. Again much support

and sympathy but as yet no solutions. We will be trying them again with some other suggestions. We have also explored without success all of the following: Senior Citizens Centre, CWA, Parks and Rec Building in Horton St, Rotary Hall, MacAdam Centre, the old Information Centre, the Girl Guides hall, a church in Mumford St. Barry Owens investigated some commercial properties but again the rents were too expensive for us.

In the short term we believe we must firstly have an office. Our membership and our administration has outgrown the old system of operating out of a secretary's lounge room. Secondly, many convenors have come to sophisticate their presentations with the excellent range of equipment we now possess and that equipment is not easily transportable. We will need to negotiate with venues to leave the equipment there permanently. Thirdly some time before June 30 we will have to make arrangements to sell or preferably store all of our other equipment as well as furniture, the library etc. This last will be a massive task requiring much volunteer assistance to pack etc.

In the long term we must find an appropriate existing property and the funding to purchase it (this is where our Patron may become a valuable resource) or a suitable block of land on which we can plan and build. For this long term plan we will need careful planning, some partners to bolster our case and, above all, some funding. We have a long term planning committee to pursue this aim.

It will be sad to say farewell to the first home of our own but we know now the advantages of having our own home and what we need to do to get it.

Has the 18 months in Warlters St been worth it? Emphatically, yes! The free rental has saved us more than we have spent on furniture and upkeep and we now know the benefits of having a home. It gives us incentive to continue the search. — *Des Davis* ■

# U3A Network Poetry Competition – Results and Reports

Individual U3A members throughout Australia were invited to submit poems (any genre) not exceeding 36 lines, on a topic that illustrated some aspect of U3A. [Not all met that criteria]. There were 70 entries received in the Competition, mostly from NSW but with a handful from Victoria and South Australia.

The poems were judged by three volunteer members of the South Coast Writers Centre, with experience in writing, teaching and judging poetry. We are very grateful for the thorough and thoughtful way in which they approached the task, working over a long period through emails and phone discussions to reach their decision. Each has submitted a report, and while it is clear that they differ in their approaches to poetry, they each acknowledged the energy and feelings expressed by the U3A poets in their work. Initially, they established a list of 18 poems, which they whittled down to five winners, and (at the suggestion of the U3A contact) 3 Honourable Mentions.

**Winning Poems** (not in any particular order) – to be read at the Conference:

*Seasoning* – Elizabeth Lengthorn, Upper North Region, Sydney

*Metamorphosis* – Glennis Henning, Greater Western Region, Sydney U3A

*Do Not Go Gently* – Noelle Humphreys, Upper North region, Sydney U3A

*Our University of The Third Age* – David Reid, Eastern region, Sydney U3A

*U3A Bathing Belle* – Margaret Jopling, Kempsey-Macleay Valley U3A

## Honourable Mentions:

*U3A Learners* – Bessie Jennings, Port Macquarie Hastings U3A

*Optimism at 80* – Tania Wisely, Harbourside North Region, Sydney

*With The Future in Mind* – Jenny Davey, Central Illawarra U3A

*Faye Davis will read the winning poems at the Annual Conference in Sydney later this month.* ■

## U3A Learners

There's a classroom slowly filling with retirees, who are willing to expand their understanding of the world; while their tutor is a neighbour, now retired from full-time labour and out front, the U3A flag is unfurled.

We've an old retired physician, and a laid-off statistician; there's a dentist and a teacher and a baker; there's a farmer and a sailor, and a grocer and a tailor, a mechanic and a nurse and undertaker.

Now their tutor is no stranger – a retired State Forest Ranger – and he's come to teach them stuff they want to know; how the trees and plants together work to modify our weather; and ecology – the way things need to grow.

In another room, next door, there are grannies by the score learning belly-dancing, keeping trim and fit; and then, farther down the hall, there's a room that's rather small where we learn to speak in Japanese (a bit).

There are hearing aids and glasses in these well-attended classes; there's a white cane, wheelchairs, walking-frames as well. Though mobility be failing, and to get here's not plain-sailing, their enthusiasm's great, as you can tell.

Some enrol to learn cartography, and some to take geography; and some to study writing plays, I see; and some will study botany – there's no risk of monotony – I'm sure there is a course that's right for me.

I think I'll take biology, or maybe archaeology, and learn about the Pharaohs' pyramids. I could learn to draw up wills, or a few computer skills; and in no time I'll be smarter than the kids.

Maybe Uni's a misnomer – no Degrees, and no Diploma – but the U3A helps open up the mind, as we soak up all this knowledge (we who never went to College) from our tutors and the courses they've designed.

With the folk at U3A now, I find friendship every day, now; and in class together, learning feels like play; so I'll not stay home and languish; senior years won't cause me anguish; I shall be a learner till my dying day.

— by Bessie Jennings

## What's On!

### ENROLMENT DAY – TERM 2 2011

**Wauchope:** Wednesday 27th April, 10.00-11.00 at Wauchope Library meeting Room, Wauchope.

**Laurieton:** Wednesday 27th April, 10.00-11.30am, LUSC (Laurieton United Services Club).

**Port Macquarie:** Wednesday 27th April, 1.30-2.30pm, U3A Centre, Warlters Street, Port Macquarie.

START OF TERM 2 2011: Monday 2 May.  
END OF TERM: Friday, 24 June.

**U3A MOVE:** Before 30th June, 2011.

**For contributions to What's on!** Please leave the written information at the U3A office for the Newsletter Publisher or email to [publications@pmhu3a.org.au](mailto:publications@pmhu3a.org.au)

## Everyone has an Opinion...

From philosophical topics such as 'rights and responsibilities' and 'wisdom' to current affairs such as 'wiki leaks' and 'boat people', our group is guided in lively discussion by our capable coordinator Ida Bruno.

For the first hour of our session we look at newspaper clippings that each of us has brought. These always generate interest and plenty of viewpoints. Then after a cuppa we deal with a set topic that Ida encourages us to research.

The next one coming up is UFOs. Should be exciting!

— Sue Bartholomew ■



Laurieton Discussion Group, l to r: Dena Owen, Pat Trood, Theodora Wieggers, Catherine Lakeman, Sue Bartholomew, Joan Saunders, Hazel Hamer.

## Marie Adarrio – speaking Italian



I grew up in Melbourne and studied French at school. After becoming a teacher I travelled for several years in Europe and decided that it was the Italian language that I preferred.

After majoring in Italian at University I have taught the language to various age groups and still, after 40 years of speaking, reading and writing the language I have much to learn and practise! Hence my involvement with the U3A where I can keep my language skills alive as well as help others to achieve the same.

— Marie Addario ■

## Listen

If I ask you to listen  
And you start giving me advice  
Then you do not do what I ask.

If I ask you to listen  
And you start telling me  
Why I shouldn't feel like I do  
Then you don't take my feelings  
serious.

If I ask you to listen  
And you think you have to do  
something  
To solve my problem  
Then you let me down.

Perhaps that's the reason  
Why praying works for some  
people  
Because God doesn't say anything  
back,  
He doesn't give advice  
Or try to organize things for you.  
He only listens and trusts  
that you can solve it yourself.

So, please  
Only listen to me and try to  
understand me.

And if you want to talk  
Then just wait  
And I promise you, that I will listen  
to you.

— submitted by Ida Bruno

## A Thank you from Metta

The Year of the Rabbit brings diplomacy and communication. Friday Yoga students have worked the physical body hard while enduring extreme heat and humidity. Using the Ancient Ways of breath control, concentration, relaxation and meditation, we've worked towards that 4th level of consciousness, that is beyond sleep, beyond dreaming – the turiya state!

At Wednesday Tai Chi and Qigong the Yang Family Form of practice has taken our group to Level 5.

Thank you to all students for your continued support and endurance at both my classes.

Metta,  
Y.T.T.C. Diploma with Distinction ■

## Is chivalry dead? You betcha!



March 17th's big storm in Port Macquarie flooded the front gate and entrance to the U3A Centre. Shown here is Frank Jennings' solution for locking up on leaving. "I, at least, got out of my car to close the gates. Mr Jennings insisted his wife would fix it... and here is the evidence!"

— photo and quote by  
Nick Ogbourne ■

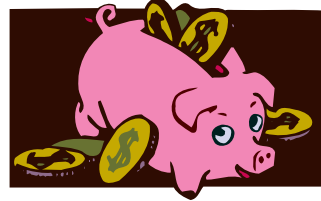


## U3A Diners Group, Summer Luncheon Blue Poles – Byabarra, January 2011

The members of our Diners Group at Blue Poles where they enjoyed a delightful day with fabulous food and views of the stunning valley. ■



From left: Sheila Millsom, Doreen Clark, Leonard Clark, Colin Craike, Joy Jarvis, Marguerite O'Connor, Stuart Whan



## Reminder

Don't forget to drop your 50¢ into the tin for morning or afternoon tea.

## BYRNES & COX

LAWYERS

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**NEXT ENROLMENT DAY – Wednesday the 27th of April 2011, 1.30 – 2.30pm at the U3A Centre, Warlters Street, Port Macquarie. See What's on! (p2) for Wauchope & Laurieton.**

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

For late enrolment, you pay only for the rest of the term. Pay at the office or 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 – ALWAYS wear your name badge when attending classes and U3A activities.** Write your emergency contact details on the back of your badge.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR EMAIL – Please inform the Office on 6584 3676 if you move house or change your email address.**

**NEWSLETTER contributions are welcome – We reserve the right to edit material submitted for publication. Copyright of original material remains with the author.**

### PHOTOGRAPHS AND PRIVACY

– If you have an objection to having your photograph or name 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.