

ENROLMENT DATES TERM 4 2013

AT LAURIETON

Monday 30 September
10.30am – 12 noon
Laurieton United Services Club

AT WAUCHOPE

Tuesday 1 October
10.00 – 11.00am
Wauchope Library

AT PORT MACQUARIE EXTENDED OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday 1 – Friday 4 October
9.30am – 4.00pm
Maritime Museum Cottage

You can enrol in courses by:

- **POST**, by enclosing cheque with your Course Enrolment form to:
Port Macquarie Hastings U3A
PO Box 1210
Port Macquarie 2444
- **ON-LINE** at www.pmhu3a.org.au by bank transfer.
- **IN PERSON** at the Office with your Course Enrolment form and cash or cheque.

We do not have credit card facilities.

NORMAL OFFICE HOURS WILL RESUME

Tuesday 8 October 2013
9.30am – 12.00 noon

Office Location:

Maritime Museum Cottage
Corner William St & Pacific Drive
Port Macquarie 2444

Phone: 6584-3676

Web site: www.pmhu3a.org.au

NOTE: Be sure to wear your name badge and bring your Course Booking form with you.

From the President...

Exciting developments for Port Macquarie Hastings U3A

On behalf of the management committee it is with much pleasure that I report to our members the exciting developments with the new premises for Port Macquarie Hastings U3A.

The project has come to fruition following successful negotiations with St Agnes Parish Catholic Care of the Aged to occupy the premises situated in Lochinvar Close on financial terms, which are most favourable to PMHU3A. We thank Fr Donnelly and CEO, Steven Quirk, for their commitment in fostering the association between our two organisations and in making the new premises dream a reality.

PMHU3A will commence to pay Community Partnership contribution on the premises from 1 January 2014 with the expectation that the premises will be completed and ready for occupation by PMHU3A by Term 1, 2014.

Following a tender process the Management Committee is pleased to report that the building contract was awarded to local builders, G J Clark Constructions and Building Consultant, Andrew Briscoe, was appointed the building project manager to oversee the build for PMHU3A.

The building work is now well advanced. Both the professionalism and dedication of Greg Clarke and Andrew have been greatly appreciated by the Management Committee (see photos on page 2). Already the exciting prospects for the building are unfolding daily.

The construction contracts have been staged to ensure that, at all times through the build, PMHU3A has committed funds in hand to complete each emerging stage.

Prior to the build commencing we are pleased to report that the following grant funds have been received or acknowledged:

- Holiday Coast Credit Union \$5,000.

- NSW 2012 Community Building Partnership Program State Funding of \$20,000.
- Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport (Community Infrastructure) Commonwealth Funding of \$50,000.

We acknowledge the dedication of the late Mr Frank Jennings in promoting the ideals of PMHU3A and the great contribution of our many volunteers to our community work now formally recognised and supported through the above sponsored programs.

The Management Committee is also pleased to report that work has commenced on the provision of additional car parking adjacent to the premises; the car parking costs will be paid for by St Agnes Parish. The provision of car parking will be of obvious benefit to our members, particularly for the less mobile members, who will have drive-up access to the front door and the availability of close to premises parking.

Whilst the car parking spaces adequately cover the requirements of Council, our management committee is in process of implementing a car parking policy with the intention to alleviate the pressure on the available car parking spaces at peak hours. The policy will include, amongst other things, a recommended park and ride option which, with the co-operation of members, will suitably address potential vehicular movement issues within the precinct at peak hours. Details of the policy will be forthcoming for member comment during Term 4.

As members would appreciate, the background to this exciting project was instigated by previous management committees and the identification at that time for the need for PMHU3A to have as part of its accommodation strategy a permanent home from which to conduct its broad range of programs.

The new premises will provide many additional and exciting opportunities:

(continued page 2, column 1)

(continued from page 1)

- A community home for social and recreational enjoyment of members.
- Catering facilities for social interaction and member well-being.
- A better enrolment and friendly office environment with a large communal area.
- Disability access and car parking.
- Fully furnished Multi-purpose rooms to facilitate:
 - Existing course curricula
 - Arts and Craft
 - Language courses
 - Wider range and variety of courses
- A base to grow membership in community partnership with St Agnes Parish and residents of St Agnes Catholic Care with St Agnes contributing towards the membership costs in the form of community partnership contributions.
- Facility to grow activities:
 - Movies
 - Social activities
 - Gardening and outdoor activities

Your Management Committee takes pride in announcing this progress report in the knowledge that the new premises meets the strategic accommodation plan referred to above in that the premises will provide the security of premises for the next 10 years. It will also provide the much needed environment of a community home for the enjoyment of all members.

— Kevin Pike, President PMHU3A ■

U3A Cluster meeting

It's always interesting to see how other U3As in our area operate. On Wednesday 18th September Lorraine Beukers and Eric Graham attended the District Cluster meeting in Kempsey. It was well organised and all delegates were warmly welcomed. It made us realise that accommodation is the major problem and just how lucky we are to be moving into our new "home" shortly where we will all be together.

Some of the interesting courses run by other U3As are "Meet the farmer", "Fishing", "Worm farming", "Cardmaking" and the "Macleay Meanders" where they go for walks at a slow pace.

It was agreed that communication with our members was most important and again we are so fortunate to have a good Newsletter, an interesting website and email communication with the majority of our members.

Cluster meetings are a great way to exchange experiences. ■

AGM, Elections and Office Bearers

The AGM will be held on November 7th at the Baptist Church Chapel at 2.00pm with registration to begin at 1.30pm. An important part of the business at the meeting is the election of Office Bearers and the Management Committee. The Management Committee shall consist of Office Bearers President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer plus 6 ordinary members. There are other Officers and function required by the organisation such as Course Coordinator, Membership Secretary, Webmaster, Publicity Officer, Newsletter Publisher, Office Manager, Premises Manager, Welfare Officer, Laurieton Coordinator and Wauchope Coordinator. These positions are appointed by the Management Committee, often from the elected ordinary members. If the

person appointed is not a member of the Committee then the Appointee may be invited to attend committee meetings and to give reports but without voting rights. All of these positions are vital to the operation of the organisation.

Many of these positions will have sub-committees and volunteers to assist them, eg office volunteers and a membership committee. The Management Committee is always seeking volunteers, not only as Conveners of courses, but also to assist in the day-to-day running of the organisation. The Laurieton courses and membership especially are becoming so large that some volunteer assistance is urgently needed. If you would like to help in any way, please talk to a committee member or leave your name at the office. ■

Laurieton – What are your Needs?

Whilst the focus of the management Committee over recent months has been attending to the requirements of the building

project for Port Macquarie, the needs of Laurieton and Camden Haven members will be a project for attention in 2014. ■

Building activity at St Agnes Lodge — the new U3A premises taking shape



L to R: Mike Matthews (U3A), Greg Clark (builder), Warren Scott (U3A), Andrew Briscoe (Project Manager).



Greg Clark inspecting the work.



Kevin Pike checking out the wiring (noose?)



One of the contractors hard at work.

Vale Frank Jennings

We will see him in our melancholy
or share with him a red.
We will know him by the greens he eats
and find how well he's fed.
We will hear his Liberal thinking
tho' he used a Commo's bed,
a man who lost his first great love
until they finally wed.

— Poem by Brian Tolagson

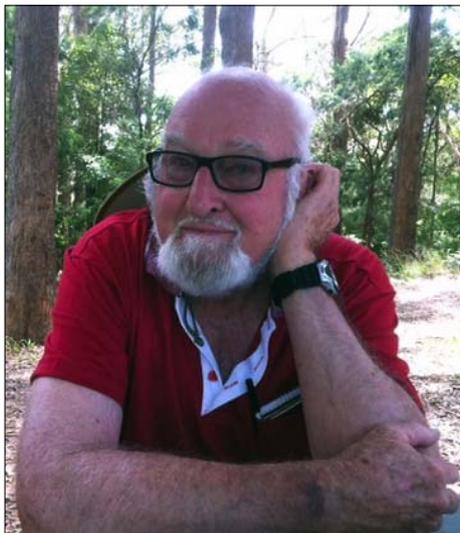
‘Friday morning 30 August 2013 our friend and U3A colleague, Frank Jennings, sadly passed away in the presence of his wife Bessie and his daughters Narelle and Lyn. It was more sudden than had been expected, but then not unexpected. Frank is now at peace and out of pain.

Frank had a distinguished and varied career in the Federal public service. It included a time as Parliamentary Liaison Officer working with Harold Holt and Gough Whitlam organising the program for the House of Representatives each day, Senior Private Secretary to Sir Robert Menzies for his last 2-1/2 years of office and to Harold Holt for his first fifteen months. This experience of dealing with politics and politicians proved invaluable to his U3A dealings and grant seeking with contemporary politicians.

In 1995 Frank, now in retirement, joined the U3A and attended classes at the Doncaster-Templestowe campus. When he came to Port Macquarie in 1998 he married Bessie, something he had wanted to do in 1950 until her father told him to “run away and grow up”. Both Bessie and Frank have been valuable members and course conveners of Port Macquarie Hastings U3A since its beginnings in 2004. Frank has convened his ever popular course *Behind the Headlines* every term and always recruited a large following and many faithful adherents. He has been Vice-President for several years and has been active and influential in many initiatives including the progress towards new premises, fund raising and political contacts, and the 2012 Annual Conference for which he organised and edited the useful workshop reports since published in U3A NSW *Newslink* newsletter.

On a more personal level Frank was a good humoured, gregarious, witty friend, conversationalist and companion extremely loved and admired within the U3A. We will all miss him and remember him with affection and respect.”

— Des Davis, former U3A President



Tributes to Frank Jennings from his “Behind the Headlines” Class

‘Frank was able to read between the lines and with his knowledge and experience, impart to the participants in the course, insights into the real story behind political life. We did enjoy the occasional glass of red after Friday class, over lunch, as did many of the other participants. But really, Frank was a great human being and a good friend.’

— David Johnson

‘As I ponder *Behind the Headlines*, I would like to thank Frank for his guidance and his interest he has generated in myself. Truly grateful.’

— Elaine Sinclair

‘Frank was a truly great Australian. He had the honour and ability to be Parliamentary Secretary to not one, but three different Prime Ministers of Australia, a feat not equalled by anyone else to my knowledge. Knowing every Federal Politician in the country gave him a very extensive knowledge of how Australia works and he was able to pass some of this extensive knowledge on to many in his classes. He was humble, never bigoted, and always cheerful even when not well. As our Vice President, he will be sadly missed by all. We send our deepest sympathy to his wife, Bessie, who is also a staunch member of U3A.’

— Kevin Baker

‘It is with sadness that I remember our *Behind the Headlines* convener, Frank Jennings, because Friday mornings was the highlight of my week. It is with appreciation of his work that I replaced him as moderator while he was sick, but it was always with the hope that it was temporary. It was a shock to our class to hear of his passing and I share the fact that the class held a segment of our time in sharing our fond memories of Frank and acknowledging our wonderful but individual relationships with him.

We farewell Frank with saddened hearts whilst appreciating the effort it took him

with shortness of breath to stimulate our thinking and stretch our minds.’

— Colleen Parker

‘We first met Frank in 2004 when he was a fellow member of the Port Macquarie Probus Club. In a very short space of time we learned of Frank’s impressive career, how he commenced work in the Prime Minister’s Department in 1951 and went on to become Senior Private Secretary to Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies in 1963 – 1966 and then for Harold Holt for 15 months.

As convener of *Behind the Headlines*, Frank had the propensity to unselfishly enlighten his class to the happenings in Parliament; he educated us with his insight and vast knowledge of Parliamentary procedures.

Frank worked tirelessly for U3A; as members we must be ever grateful for his persistent approaches to the politicians in a never ending endeavour to improve the facilities available to all members.

Already we are missing not having Frank to keep us up to date with the information he gleaned from his never ending perusal of his beloved newspapers. He is a great loss to the community in general, and particularly to U3A.’

— Bryon & Margaret Lennon

‘I’ve been a member of Frank’s *Behind the Headlines* class since 2006. I learned so much from him about the inner workings of Parliament from his knowledge, incredible experience and insight into the government and his willingness to share with us and to stimulate our minds. We always looked forward to his predictions of what would happen on the political scene, which were amazingly most often right. He would say, “Remember, you heard it here first!”

It is with heavy hearts that we farewell Frank. We will miss him very much but thank him for his extraordinary efforts in his struggle to continue on with his class. He bade farewell to his suffering just as our class ended that Friday morning at 11am. His legacy will live on through those who knew him. It was an honour and a privilege to have known Frank and to count him as a friend.’

— Sue Clifford

‘Frank’s contribution to U3A like everything Frank did was writ large. We in his *Behind the Headlines* class benefited in particular from his in-depth political knowledge and experience as Senior Private Secretary to three Australian Prime Ministers.

His analysis of current headlines and events was distilled to us in his unique style of incisive comment and ever ready wit. How fortunate we were — how much we will miss him.’

— Charles Harbon

Fee structure – July 1 to December 31, 2013

New and renewing members

If you wish to become a member of U3A or to renew your membership after July 1, please complete the Membership Form at the office or register on line at www.pmhu3a.org.au

Payment of \$20.00 plus joining fee of \$5.00 (Total \$25.00) can be made by CASH or CHEQUE at the office, or by BANK TRANSFER on the website.

We do **not** have Credit Card facilities at the office.

— Jenny Tucker, Office Administrator ■

Termination of reciprocal arrangements

Members are advised that the Management Committee has terminated the reciprocal arrangements between PMHU3A Inc. and PM-Watonga U3A Inc. effective Term 4 2013. To attend PMHU3A classes a person must be a member of PMHU3A. Likewise, to attend PM-Watonga U3A classes, a person must be a member of PM-Watonga U3A.

Bathurst Tour Cancelled

The U3A Bus trip to Bathurst has been cancelled due to low numbers booking. Deposits will be refunded. If your deposit has not been refunded yet, please check with the U3A office during open hours (see p1).

What's On!

ENROLMENT DATES – TERM 4 2013:
See page 1.

PMHU3A TERM DATES 2013

TERM 4 2013: Oct 14 – Dec 6

Laurieton Choir: Public performance Friday Dec 6, 2.00pm, School of the Arts, Laurieton.

PMHU3A TERM DATES 2014

TERM 1 2014: Feb 3 – March 28

TERM 2 2014: May 5 – June 27

TERM 3 2014: July 21 – Sept 12

TERM 4 2014: Oct 13 – Dec 5

If undeliverable, return to:

Port Macquarie Hastings U3A Inc
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Port Macquarie NSW 2444

PMHU3A Newsletter

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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 or via email on office@pmhu3a.org.au if you move house or change your email address.

NEWSLETTER contributions 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 on the web site 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.