

## EXTENDED OFFICE HOURS

25 November – 6 December 2013  
9.30am – 3.00pm

Phone: 6584-3676

### Office Location:

Maritime Museum Cottage  
Corner William St & Pacific Drive  
Port Macquarie

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

## The new PMHU3A Centre

The building is now in the final painting and carpeting stage with completion expected towards the end of November. On behalf of the Management Committee, I thank Greg Clark and Andrew Briscoe for their cooperation and assistance throughout the build. We now have a fantastic community centre, which is a tribute to their professionalism and dedication.

The PMHU3A Centre will provide virtually all our accommodation needs in Port Macquarie for many years to come.

Members should appreciate that we are the beneficiaries of a very valuable building renovated to our own design, comprising an overall area space of 632 square metres, an extensive courtyard and a minimum of 53 car parking spaces. We hope that all members will be as excited as the Management Committee is to have such an



## From the President...

### AGM & Elections

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Baptist Church Chapel Room on Thursday 7th November with a good attendance of members present. The main business, of course, was the election of Office Bearers and the Management Committee members for 2013/2014.

I thank all the committee members for their commitment to Port Macquarie Hastings U3A and look forward to working with you all in what will be a most exciting year ahead.

On behalf of the Management Committee, I thank all members for their support in 2013 and wish you and your families a happy and peaceful Christmas holiday.

— Kevin Pike, President PMHU3A ■

incredible facility as our new community home for the social enjoyment of all members.

We thank Fr. Donnelly and Stephen Quirk for their commitment in fostering the association between our two organisations.

— Kevin Pike ■



## New Management Committee

### Executive Management:

President: Kevin Pike  
Vice President: Eric Graham  
Secretary: Sue Moll  
Treasurer: Lorraine Beukers

### Committee Members:

Jenny Tucker Office Administrator  
Nick Ogbourne Membership Sec'y  
Maggie Wilson Course Coordinator  
Michael Rogers Committee  
Beverley Izard Wauchope Coord.  
Jacqui Everett Newsletter Publisher

### Other Responsibilities:

Camden Haven Ida Bruno Coord.  
Catering Marie Thompson & Delwyn Hatton  
Garden Greg Dark  
Editor-in-Chief Sue Clifford  
IT Support Mike Matthews  
Premises Warren Scott  
Web Master Andrew Moll  
Welfare Officer Elaine Howell

## Orientation days

A series of Orientation Days will be held at the new PMHU3A Centre in January:

- **Conveners:** 14 January 2014 – invitations have been sent.
- **Current members:** 22 January 2014
- **New members:** 23 January 2014

Details will be included in the Term 1, 2014 Newsletter for current Members and new Members. ■

## Artist required!

Our Arts & Crafts room is looking for an artist. If you feel able to offer an arts course, please contact our Course Coordinator, Maggie, on 6583 4114 or by email at [courses@pmhu3a.org.au](mailto:courses@pmhu3a.org.au) ■

Photos of PMHU3A Centre, clockwise from left: 1) View of Courtyard; 2) One of the two kitchens; 3) Office under construction.

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## Funding issues

### 1. Federal Grant

A funding issue has arisen whereby since the announcement of the Federal elections held on 7th September, all Federal grants have been suspended pending consideration by Warren Truss, the Deputy Prime Minister. Following our approach for assistance, our local Member, Dr David Gillespie, has interceded on our behalf.

At the date of this article going to print we are still hopeful that the grant will be successful but, given the substantial amount of discussion in the media, it could be possible that our grant of \$50,000 will not be forthcoming.

At the Annual General Meeting members supported the recommendation of the Management Committee to accept a Plan B to cover this unfortunate possibility.

As a means to this end, PMHU3A has accepted bridging finance from six (6) friends of PMHU3A to advance to the PMHU3A the required amount of \$30,000 to complete the final stage of the build.

The Treasurer has presented a budget for 2013/2014 indicating that, without changing the fee structure, the budgeted

cash flow will enable PMHU3A to meet all its ongoing operational financial commitments and loan repayments.

I thank these friends of PMHU3A for their generous support.

In the event that the grant funds are ratified, the loans will be immediately repaid.

### 2. Members 'Furniture Appeal'

A further requirement will be to fit out the U3A Centre with appropriate furniture to make the Centre comfortable for members. Owing to the obvious funding issues raised above, the Management Committee will be relying on the generosity of members to donate either in kind or cash to provide for immediate furniture needs in Term 1, 2014.

Please let the office staff know if you have good quality furniture and items that may be surplus to your requirements, such as chairs, tables, kitchen appliances, cutlery or crockery and lounge furniture.

### 3. Fundraising in 2014

The Management Committee has formed a fundraising committee to establish and promote a major fundraising campaign in 2014. The emphasis of the campaign will be to fund raise through a gifting/pledge campaign with members and friends of

PMHU3A and the Hastings community. It is proposed that the proceeds from the campaign will be applied towards a Future Fund. The objectives of the Future Fund will be to supplement the future capital needs of the organisation.

The future capital needs are not immediate and the PMHU3A as a policy will seek out Grant funds whenever possible; eg, thirteen (13) grants were applied for in 2012/2013.

Some future needs might include:

- Interactive white boards
- Classroom furniture: chairs & desks
- Kitchen supplies: cutlery, crockery and utensils
- Office equipment needs
- Acquisition and laying of carpets throughout the U3A Centre (loan repayments)
- Audio loops including assistance for the hearing impaired
- Teaching equipment / aids
- Telecommunications / NBN equipment to facilitate virtual conferences etc.

We thank Vice President Eric Graham in leading this initiative and we hope that all members will enthusiastically and generously support the campaign.

— *Kevin Pike* ■

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## A tribute to conveners

We are fortunate indeed to have so many volunteer conveners who so generously give their time to share their life skills and experiences with us. I acknowledge the outstanding contribution by our conveners this year. It is because of your commitment that we have enjoyed such a successful program of courses in 2013. On behalf of our members, I thank you all.

Our program development depends on our recruitment of new conveners. We need as many members as possible to consider becoming conveners, as your personal life skills and experiences are the basis for new courses, which is the most important objective.

Eric Graham is our official recruitment officer who will happily follow up on any leads with encouragement and advice. The great joy for conveners is that they are not preparing students for examination; instead, they are sharing their talents with their peers.

I appeal to all members to consider becoming a convener in 2014. Our future success depends on you. — *Kevin Pike* ■

## Strategic planning appointments

As with any business the longer term development of our organisation depends on forward planning. In the area of Human Resources our future needs include YOU.

If you have interests or experience in the following areas of expertise we need YOU:

- Marketing
- Fundraising and grant applications
- Human resources
- Strategic planning
- Financial planning
- Office training
- Engineering
- Problem solving
- Teaching and lecturing
- Leadership
- Catering management and cooking
- Music
- Arts and crafts
- Transport driving licence, and traffic control
- Life experiences
- Trade and professional qualifications
- IT skills and knowledge
- People person

- Science and medicine
- Aged care training
- Language skills
- Farming and grazing knowledge
- Sporting and exercise interests
- Horticulture and gardening
- Building industry and carpentry
- Fashion
- Dramatic arts
- Games and hobbies
- You like food and wine
- Sense of humour!
- Public speaking
- Counselling
- Ancient history
- Comparative religion
- Archaeology
- Politics
- Aviation
- Chinese history
- Famous people

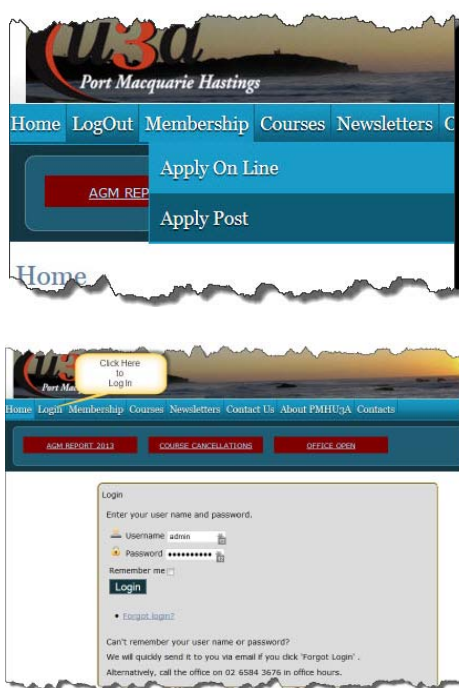
Please contact Eric Graham ([vicepresident@pmhu3a.org.au](mailto:vicepresident@pmhu3a.org.au)) Ph 6581 1647 or Kevin Pike ([president@pmhu3a.org.au](mailto:president@pmhu3a.org.au)) Ph 6583 7720 as you are a potential contributor to our organisation. ■

## Membership renewals now OPEN – 2014

We are now open for Membership Renewals for 2014. The membership rates remain the same – \$35.00 per year if you RENEW your membership before January 31st. If you join (or renew your current membership) after Jan 31st, there will be a \$5.00 joining fee also due. You can avoid that \$5.00 fee by renewing now. Apart from saving you money, we would really appreciate as many renewals now as possible. There will be a lot going on early in the New Year!

The simplest and quickest way to renew your membership is via the web site. Log in with your user name and password. Then you can renew your membership or print a form with the information that we have on file about you. Just click on *Membership* and *Apply On Line*. Please check carefully that all details are correct.

Alternatively, you can print a blank form



and complete that and return it to the office or post it with your cheque to PO Box 1210, Port Macquarie, 2444.

You can also assist your PMHU3A and avoid future membership fee increases or joining fees by paying for Extended Membership. To do this, just pay for three (3) years at the current rate of \$35.00 per year. For members who are financial in 2013, the Extended Membership fee will be \$105.00 until 31st January. From 1st February, the \$5.00 joining fee will apply and the total fee will be \$110.00. New members can also join for 3 years by paying 3 years membership of \$35.00/year and a joining fee of \$5.00 – a total of \$110.00. This means you will be financial until January 2017.

We will then record your Extended Membership and confirm that we have done so. We will issue a new badge every year.

You can contact me at [membership@pmhu3a.org.au](mailto:membership@pmhu3a.org.au)

— Nick Ogbourne, Membership Secretary ■

## Extended office hours Term 4 2013

To assist PMHU3A members with payment of New Member and Renewal Fees, the office will be open for the last two weeks of term from November 25 to December 6 from 9.30am until 3.00pm at the Maritime Museum cottage. Please be sure to read the above article “Membership Renewals now OPEN – 2014”.

Please assist us by presenting your completed form with cash or cheque during open hours; we will process your receipt and badge for you at that time. Alternatively, you may post your form and cheque to PO Box 1210, Port Macquarie, 2444. Please remember, we do not have Credit

Card nor EFTPOS facilities; however, if you renew on line, you can pay by bank transfer.

Thank you for your patience during these changing times; we enthusiastically look forward to our spectacular new premises.

If you are able to assist us with office experience in the future, please contact me so that we can arrange a mutual time to discuss arrangements.

— Jenny Tucker, Office Administrator

Phone 6584 3676 at the Museum until December 6, 2013, or at home 6582 0954. ■

## New membership numbers

Our membership has grown over the last 8 years to 750. Effectively it is more than that as members come and go from year to year. When John Neilson first set up our membership system in 2005 it was possible to manage the number of members manually using a spread sheet. As the membership grew we have found it necessary to transfer to an on line database system. We managed to retain much of the manual characteristics of John's work.

From 2014, we need to change your membership number; it will still be of the

form John initiated – that is, for example, 040020 where the first two digits show the year that you first joined PMHU3A but those last four digits will be different. Your membership number will not change again and you will see what your new number is when we issue your next badge for 2014. If you are anxious to know what your new number will be, send a message to the office and they can tell you.

For the rest of 2013 your old membership number is valid, of course.

— Nick Ogbourne, Membership Secretary ■

## The new web site

At last the new web site is finished and is, hopefully, simpler to use. It has been a long time and a lot of work, not only for me, but also for the office and membership teams who have helped specify the changes and then test those changes, particularly concerning the membership systems.

Why did we need to make these changes? Like all software packages, new versions become available and suppliers are no longer willing to support the older versions. This was a good opportunity to make some changes that the office staff had been asking for, and make the whole thing simpler and less time-consuming for everyone. We are now a large organisation and we want to present a professional face to our members and potential members.

For this last step, I managed to finally stop those annoying messages that kept on arriving. I apologise once more for that.

There is still more to be done and then we have plans to improve the course enrolment systems.

If you have suggestions to further improve the site, would like more material added or find any errors, please let Andrew Moll know. Send him a message at [webmaster@pmhu3a.org.au](mailto:webmaster@pmhu3a.org.au). Andrew now looks after the web site content.

— Nick Ogbourne, IT Manager ■



*May peace and joy be with you  
and your loved ones this holiday  
season and throughout the year  
ahead. Stay safe in your travels.*

*Merry Christmas and Happy  
New Year from the PMHU3A  
Management Committee.*

## What's On!

### 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.

### ORIENTATION DAYS

**Conveners: Tuesday 14 Jan 2014**  
**Members: Wednesday 22 Jan 2014**  
**New Members: Thursday 23 Jan 2014**  
PMHU3A Centre, Lochinvar Place, Port  
Macquarie.

### 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  
PO Box 1210  
Port Macquarie NSW 2444

PMHU3A Newsletter

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Website: [www.pmhu3a.org.au](http://www.pmhu3a.org.au)

**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](mailto: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.

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