

ENROLMENT DATES TERM 3 2014

AT LAURIETON

Monday 14 July
10.30am – 12 noon
Laurieton United Services Club

AT WAUCHOPE

Tuesday 15 July
10.00am – 11.00am
Wauchope Library

AT PORT MACQUARIE

Monday 14 – Friday 18 July
9.30am – 3.30pm daily

You **MUST** be a **MEMBER OF PMHU3A** to enrol in a course. **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORMS** may be obtained from the office or downloaded from the website, or you can apply online. Half-year membership at \$25 is available from July 1st.

Please **WEAR YOUR BADGE** when attending an enrolment centre. Collect a **COURSE BOOKING FORM**, fill in your **MEMBERSHIP DETAILS** and **TICK THE COURSES** you wish to join. The **COURSE BOOKING FORM** can also be downloaded from the website.

You may enrol and pay for courses by:

- **IN PERSON** at the **Office** with your Course Booking Form and cash or cheque.
- **ON-LINE:** at www.pmhu3a.org.au and then by bank transfer.
- **POST:** Enclose cheque with your Course Booking Form to:

Port Macquarie Hastings U3A Inc.
PO Box 1210
Port Macquarie 2444

We have NO credit card facilities.

Office Location:

The U3A Centre
2 Lochinvar Place
Port Macquarie 2444

Phone No: 6584 4192

Hours: 9.30am – 3.30pm

Website: www.pmhu3a.org.au

From the President...

As we reach the half-way point in activities of PMHU3A for 2014, I have much pleasure in reporting our achievements to date.

The core activity of our organisation in providing stimulating educational courses for our members continues extremely successfully and at an exceptionally high level. I take this opportunity to thank most sincerely, all our valued conveners for their continued commitment.

At the same time I ask all members to consider their potential roles within the ranks of our Association as conveners. Please consider volunteering your personal expertise in this capacity for 2015. We can make extremely good use of your life experiences in a teaching role.

The following functions were conducted most successfully during Term 2:

- The 'Official Opening', which was organised hastily in view of the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Warren Truss's visit to Port Macquarie, was held on 21 May.
- The fund raiser event 'Murder at Checkmate Manor' was held on 17 May and was enjoyed immensely by approximately ninety members.

I thank the management committee, the fundraising sub-committee, and all members who attended these events and contributed to their success. I am pleased to report that the membership fundraising appeal to the end of May has raised \$22,000.

Members would be aware that the main objective of the 2014 fundraising project is to improve the facilities for the personal comfort and benefit of members. The progress of the improvements achieved to date is reported later in the newsletter.

In Term 3 members will have the opportunity of enjoying the following events:

- Celebrating our new Port Macquarie Hastings U3A Centre to be held on 12 July (*see invitation below*).
- 'Mad Hatters Tea Parties' to be held over the Week 11-15 August (*further information on page 3*)

Financially our Association is in good shape. During Term 2 the long awaited Federal Funding of \$50,000 was received. This enabled the bridging finance of \$30,000 from the Friends of U3A to be repaid. I take this opportunity to again thank the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development and the Friends of U3A for their tremendous financial support.

Last week I attended an evening function conducted by The Holiday Coast Credit Union at which PMHU3A received a capital grant of \$600 to install a hot water system in the western kitchen. I record our special thanks to HCCU for their continued interest and financial support.

Lastly to all volunteers, your contribution to our magnificent organisation is greatly appreciated.

Kevin Pike, President PMHU3A ■

Celebrating our new Port Macquarie Hastings U3A Centre

The President and Management Committee cordially invite members to attend a function in celebration of our new PMHU3A Centre to take place from 2.00 - 4.00pm on Saturday 12 July 2014 at the Centre, 2 Lochinvar Place, Port Macquarie.

Formalities will include the dedication of The Frank Jennings Room, occasional speeches from Eric Graham and Des Davis followed by afternoon tea and a celebratory drink.



For catering purposes please RSVP by 8th July to the Secretary on 0420 921 459 or by email at honsec@pmhu3a.org.au



[Please note: as it may become necessary to limit numbers, members are urged to reserve their places at the function as early as possible]

Murder at Checkmate Manor

The Tenison Woods Centre, with its huge chess board, was the perfect setting for an audience of more than eighty people to enjoy the Hastings Theatre Group production of the 'Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society Murder Mystery', a classic whodunnit, *Murder at Checkmate Manor*.



Written by David McGillivray & Walter Zerlin Jr, and first performed at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 1980, the play is set in the stately home of recently deceased Sir Reginald Bishop where relatives—Bishops, Rooks and Kings—are gathered to hear the reading of Sir Reginald's will. As, one by one, they fall victim to a dastardly series of murders, the number of potential beneficiaries rapidly

decreases as the play progresses. Even the family dog makes injudicious contact with a hammer, Quite a case for dapper Inspector O'Reilly whose interest in the murders is exceeded only by his interest in the ladies.

Of course, being an amateur production where anything that can go wrong does, there were all the usual gags, double entendres, false timing, forgotten lines, loud prompts, collapsing scenery and mix-ups with stage effects, turning the whole thing into an elaborate farce and generating laughter that seems to have been heard all over St Agnes Village.

An interval for afternoon tea saw everyone descending on the table laden with goodies, lovingly prepared and generously donated by U3A members. A brief spell in the afternoon sunshine and back to our seats for the concluding act.

And whodunnit? Well, the butler, Pawn, of course. Or maybe Régine, the French maid? More importantly, did anyone care? This was, after all, simple entertainment greatly enjoyed by everyone.

Special thanks to Betty Starr and the fundraising committee for organising the event, to our always reliable helpers in the

kitchen and on the ticket desk, to everyone who contributed cakes, sandwiches and the like, and, not least, to members whose support added over \$1200 to our current fundraising program.

Postscript – what a drag!

Alert members of the audience might have observed that, in the great Shakespearean tradition, some of the female roles were played by men. This is not the first time such a thing has been seen at the Tenison Woods Centre. We hope it's not becoming a bad habit!



Former PMHU3A Vice-president, the late Frank Jennings, at a Port Writers function in September 2012

Opening of the Centre

Having spent some months trying to fix a date for the official opening of the PMHU3A Centre it came as a shock to receive a call on 19 May letting us know that Warren Truss, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure & Regional Development, would visit the centre two days later to do the honours. With president Kevin Pike in Sydney and unable to get back in time, Sue Moll rose magnificently to the occasion, she and others spending the next 48 hours in a flurry of activity. Jenny Tucker helped with the administrative arrangements, Lorraine and Frank Beukers organised a plaque, Jacqui Everett sorted out the catering, Warren Scott made sure that all the internal spaces were shipshape, Greg and Alvina Dark doing likewise with the courtyard, and Nick Ogbourne and Mike Matthews set up the computers so we could show off our technology.

Thankfully, their efforts were amply rewarded. The weather was beautiful, the dignitaries arrived on time and the



Unveiling the plaque

(L to R) Lorraine Beukers, Brian Tolagson, David Gillespie, Leslie Williams, Warren Truss, Sue Moll

function went very smoothly. Mr Truss was accompanied by Dr David Gillespie, Member for Lyne, Leslie Williams, Member for Port Macquarie, and Adam Spencer, Chief Executive Officer of St Agnes Parish. All were greatly impressed by the centre and by the work done by PMHU3A.

Brian Tolagson presided over the unveiling ceremony and Mr Truss gave a

gracious speech, focusing on the ageing demographic and the importance of organisations such as U3A.

Afterwards, he, Dr Gillespie, Ms Williams and Mr Spencer mixed freely with members over afternoon tea.

While the occasion was more low-key than we had anticipated, and involved fewer members of PMHU3A than we would have liked, it left us free to arrange a more informal celebration of our new Centre. (*see page 1*)



Sue Moll with Warren Truss and David Gillespie

The People's Pleasure

LAST term a new class started, convened by Mike Pepperday, on the prospects for an Australian republic.

The discussion will resume next term under the new title *The People's Pleasure*, to take seriously the idea that a republic is where the people are sovereign. Mike objects to the top-down nature of the 1990s debate. Since this process failed, he suggests an interim measure of the governor-general being appointed by the people instead of the Queen.



photo: News Ltd.

Past and present republican activism will be discussed along with some of the constitutional idiosyncrasies and practicalities. Mike seeks your views on what sort of program might be needed to progress the issue.

If you are interested, go to **Wednesday** in the course program/schedule and look for more details.

Invitation to Conveners

AS you can see, the newsletter is a great vehicle for letting members and prospective members know more about your course, so if you would like to get a little more publicity please send a few lines, and perhaps a photograph, to the editor at newsletter@pmhu3a.org.au

And there's more

DID YOU KNOW that any member is able to access Course Notes from a number of class conveners via the PMHU3A website. They go from A (Astronomy) to W (World Geography), with many in between.

You need to be logged in with your user name and password. Press on the Course Notes menu, and scroll down the list using the mouse wheel, then select the course required.

Conveners are encouraged to forward their notes to Andrew Moll, the Web Manager (support03@pmhu3a.org.au), for inclusion on the website.

Wanted – Alive!

PMHU3A is seeking office assistance from someone with relevant experience and/or appropriate computer skills.

If you can help please contact the Office Administrator, Jenny Tucker, on 6584 4192 or at home on 6582 0954, or by email at officeadmin@pmhu3a.org.au

Parking – again

Members should note that the parking spots designated for the use of PMHU3A and for the Catholic Care of the Aged (CCA) are now clearly marked.

When attending classes, members of U3A should try to ensure that they park in one of the spots allocated for our use.

Filling the gaps

Several members have indicated that they would enjoy having some informal activities at the PMHU3A Centre during the breaks between terms. How widespread this feeling is, and what kind of activities are envisaged, is uncertain at this stage but we would welcome your views on the matter and your suggestions for activities.

The idea has been endorsed in principle by the Committee but it must be remembered that much of the work undertaken by committee members and the hard-working volunteers who maintain the premises and technical services does not stop during term breaks and it would be unfair to impose a further load on them. All activities need some level of organisation so it is important that when proposing events you also let us know how you can help to organise them. If, for example, you would like to have a talk on a general subject or, say, run a film show, then please supply the speaker or the film, let us have some information we can send out to members, liaise with the office to fix a suitable date, and so on. Our busy volunteers will be happy to provide appropriate support but are unable to take on the entire organising role in addition to their other work.

Our Centre Celebration Day will be held during the current break but there will be break in September when we might, with your help, arrange some other activities.

Please send your suggestions to the editor at newsletter@pmhu3a.org.au or drop them at the office marked for his attention.

What's On!

ENROLMENT DATES – TERM 3 2014:
See page 1.

REMAINING TERM DATES 2014

TERM 3 2014: July 21 – Sept 12

TERM 4 2014: Oct 13 – Dec 5

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS U3A

CENTRE CELEBRATION

Saturday 12 July 2014, 2.00 – 4.00pm

MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTIES

Fundraising Event

11 – 15 August 2014

The Mad Hatter's Tea Parties

As part of our ongoing Fundraising and Recognition project, convenors and class members are invited to participate in our next exciting fun event, which has as a theme *The Mad Hatter's Tea Parties*. It will be held over the week 11th to 15th August.

All classes are encouraged to enter into the spirit of the event and attend your morning or afternoon tea during the designated 'Mad Hatter's Week' with your favourite or most outlandish hat!

The organisation is entirely in the hands of your class. You organise and choose your special food requirements and it is suggested that a donation of \$5 per person (or whatever you can afford) be made *in lieu* of the normal charge of one dollar.

One member from each class is requested to arrange for the collection of the suggested donation and account to the office for an official receipt.

In the spirit of developing the PMHU3A community, classes are encouraged to intermingle with members of other classes running at the same time and sharing the facilities with your class.

Most importantly members are advised that all proceeds collected during the 'Mad Hatter's Week' will be put towards the urgent need to air condition all lecture rooms.

You will be pleased to hear that the fundraising project has already contributed directly towards improving member comfort through the installation of hot water systems in both kitchens and the recent acquisition of fifty lecture room chairs in room 10.

Smiles all round for PMHU3A



Eric and Shirley Graham await the start of Murder at Checkmate Manor at the Tenison Woods Centre on 17 May



Kevin Pike accepts a cheque from The Holiday Coast Credit Union



Greg Dark chats with Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss after the official opening of the PMHU3A Centre on 21 May

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.

Any member who does not have a name badge should contact the office.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR EMAIL
– Please inform the Office on 6584 4192 or via email on office@pmhu3a.org.au if you move house or change your email address.

NEWSLETTER – Contributions are welcome but we reserve the right to edit material submitted for publication. Copyright of original material remains with the author.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND PRIVACY – If you have any objection to having your photograph or name on the web site or in our Newsletter, please write to the Secretary and make this known. We will always respect your privacy.

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