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Term Dates 2015

9 February – 3 April

4 May – 26 June

27 July – 18 September

19 October – 11 December

Prior to the commencement of Term 1 the Centre will be open for enrolments and the registration of new members between 27 January and 6 February 2015. Current members may renew their membership from 1 December 2014. More information on membership renewals can be found on page 3 of this newsletter, and enrolment details will appear in the January issue.

Summer Closure

The U3A Centre will be closed from 6 December 2014 to 26 January 2015 apart from those days on which special classes and/or social functions have been scheduled. See **What's On!** on page 3.

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...

The Annual General Meeting was held on Friday 14 November. While the attendance was a little disappointing it is hoped that this reflects a level of satisfaction at the way in which we are operating.

The Annual Report, including the Financial Report, was presented. A few of the highlights were:

- building renovations completed at a cost of \$133,428
- receipt of grants totalling \$79,582 (plus a further \$6,735 since 1 July)
- a Fundraising and Recognition Project which has enabled the purchase of chairs for Room 10, hot water for both kitchens, air-conditioning in six more rooms, a new fernery and barbecue facilities
- membership at mid-October was 809, an increase of 8% on the previous year. It includes 70 CCA residents and 150 at Laurieton.
- around two-thirds of our members now contactable by email, our preferred method of communication
- 232 courses offered over the year (an increase of 34% in course days)
- an expanded social program with regular events throughout the year
- improvements to the website providing enhanced communication with members

The main business of the AGM was the election of Office Bearers and Management Committee members for 2014–2015. The names of those elected are shown in the next column, together with those of others who undertake special responsibilities.

On that note, I again appeal for one or more of our Laurieton members to help coordinate our activities there.

Two social functions have already been held in Term 4 – ‘Afternoon with the Bards’ and a Melbourne Cup Lunch. Both were well supported and very much enjoyed. My thanks to Betty Starr and everyone else involved in organising these events.

Don't forget that our Xmas Party will be

Management Committee 2014–15

Executive Management:

President:	Kevin Pike
Vice President:	Tony Dawson
Secretary:	Sue Moll
Treasurer:	Lorraine Beukers

Committee Members:

Jenny Tucker	Office Administrator
Maggie Wilson	Course Coordinator
Beverley Izard	Wauchope Coordinator
Michael Rogers	
Jacqui Everett	
John Harlow	

Auditor:

David Johnson

Other Responsibilities:

IT Support	Nick Ogbourne Mike Matthews
Web Master	Andrew Moll
Garden	Greg Dark
Premises	Warren Scott
Publishing	Sue Clifford
Social events	Betty Starr

held on 29 November at the Tenison Woods Centre. The cost is a mere \$15 per person and we hope to see you there.

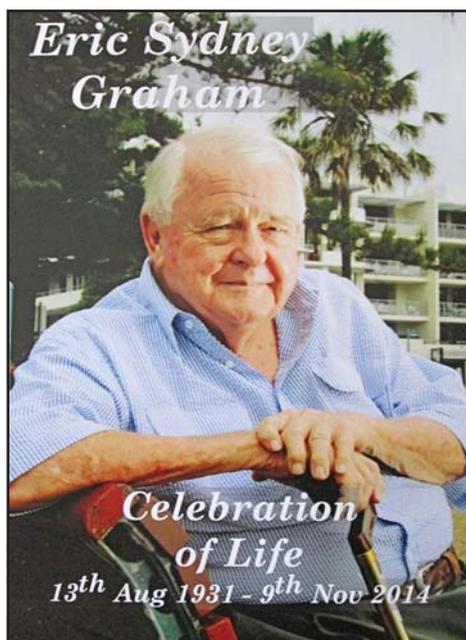
We have also scheduled a series of social events over the long break and hope you will enjoy them.

On a very sad note, I have to record the death of Eric Graham, a special person who will be greatly missed. A Celebration of Life was held at the centre on 16 November and a full report is on page 2. On behalf of our organisation I extend our sincere condolences to Shirley and the Graham Family.

May I conclude by thanking all committee members for their commitment to Port Macquarie Hastings U3A, and on behalf of the Management Committee I also wish to thank all members for your support in 2014. I wish you and your families a happy and peaceful Christmas holiday and look forward to seeing you in 2015.

Kevin Pike, President PMHU3A ■

Vale Eric Graham



On Sunday 16 November almost two hundred people gathered at the U3A Centre to say farewell to Eric Graham, widely regarded as the “father” of U3A in Port Macquarie, and undeniably the embodiment of its spirit and its greatest champion.

Eric died just seven days earlier, aged 83. It had been his wish that any commemoration should be held at the home of the organisation he loved so dearly, and we were honoured that so many of his family and friends, including those from other associations in which he had played a prominent role, came to pay tribute to him.

Celebrating the life of a man whose loss is felt so deeply is bittersweet. A man loved not only for his achievements but for who he was – a generous, caring, and forgiving soul who touched so many lives. And everyone, at one time or another, had felt it; the gentle hand, the encouragement, the reassuring words, and that unforgettable laughter that could shake Eric, and us, to our foundations.

Margo, a family friend and civil celebrant conducted proceedings which began with Lachlan, Eric’s grandson and a talented pianist, playing a favourite of Eric’s, Für Elise. Margo then read the eulogy, and in the following passage the words in italics are Eric’s own:

It was a dark and stormy night on the 13th August, 1931 and on that night Jean Graham gave birth to two dear little “twinnies”. First there was George Kenneth and it clearly stated on his birth certificate, elder born of twins. Then about

20 minutes later Eric Sydney arrived and on his birth certificate, younger born of twins. This meant of course, that Ken inherited the title, the castle, all the rural estates, a stable of horses and I was left with nothing.

Eric at his playful best, of course; he and Ken had a wonderful relationship throughout their lives until Ken’s death earlier this year.

Eric spent his early years *at Pennant Hills and in those days it was quite different from what it is today. It was just a little village on the northern line.* Later, he and Ken went off to *Sydney Grammar. What a wonderful school it was in those days. It catered for the whole boy, not just on achieving high HSC results.*

Then it was Sydney University where Eric studied medicine but did not complete the course. Instead he joined a small international pharmaceutical company and after being sent to New Zealand to manage the company’s interests there, he *met the beautiful Shirley and [they] were married in 1959.* Two of Eric and Shirley’s three sons were born in New Zealand, the third arriving after their return to Australia where Eric took a job with Hoover Australia. Some years later he joined a printing company. He *knew absolutely nothing about printing but learned very quickly.* As Eric says *“we had great staff and it was really fun building up the company. We enjoyed a very pleasant lifestyle and had a lovely town house in Glebe where we lived for some 18 years.”* Sadly, an economic downturn and advances in computer technology led to the company’s demise and as a salve Eric and Shirley *volunteered as drivers for the Sydney Olympics which was quite fun.*

Their decision to retire to Port Macquarie was one of the smartest decisions ever made in our lifetime. Eric was a long time member of Rotary so naturally he joined a club here. He was also *involved in the formation of the Port Macquarie District Combined Probus Club where [he] was the Foundation President.* Later he moved to Port Macquarie South Probus Club.

But U3A became his main love, so let’s hear what he has to say: *“Of course, my real joy over the past 10 years has been Port Macquarie U3A. I am absolutely passionate about U3A and I greatly appreciate what they have given to me and so many friends that I have made in that time. It is a wonderful organisation and we are so lucky to have such a great management team.”*

The eulogy ended with Eric’s plea for us to *look after Shirley. She is very precious.*

After a moment’s silence to reflect on Eric’s life, his and Shirley’s three sons, David, Rick and Duncan all said some words about what their father meant to them, and special thanks were offered to Duncan for the way he cared for Eric and Shirley over the past few months.

There followed a poem read by Neil Buxton, a photo collage, and contributions from Peter Grey of Rotary, Fred O’Toole of Probus, and Des Davis, a former president of Port Macquarie Hastings U3A. One or two others also accepted the invitation to speak before Kevin Pike, our current president, stepped forward to announce the official naming of the reception area of the U3A Centre as “The Eric Graham Forum”, a tribute to Eric’s lifetime of service to the community, especially through U3A, Rotary and Probus.

To the sound of Sarah Brightman and Andrea Bocelli singing “Time to say Goodbye”, everyone then retired to the courtyard to enjoy refreshments and reflect further on the loss of a dear friend.



Lachlan, Duncan and Rick Graham with ‘The Eric Graham Forum’ plaque

Despite his love for history, Eric was one of the most forward-looking people one could hope to meet. His eye was always on the future and how we might make things better. Fortunately, his spirit has become firmly embedded into the fabric of our organisation; in the physical structure of our centre, in the variety of courses offering new learning opportunities in a collegial atmosphere as we pass through the later years of our lives, but most of all in the way this enables us to recognise the value of our own lives and those of others.

Vale Eric Graham, and be good. We know that, wherever you are, you’ll be remarkably well, still talking, still laughing. Our gratitude is eternal and we shall always remember you.

Membership Renewals

U3A will be open for membership renewals from 1 December 2014. The annual membership fee remains unchanged at \$35 per year provided you renew before 13 February 2015 which is the end of week one of the first term. If you renew your current membership after that date, a \$5 joining fee will also be due.

Apart from saving you money, we would really appreciate your renewal as early as possible as it helps us to plan for the coming 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 on line or print a form with the information that we have on file about you. Just go to **Membership** and click **Apply On Line**. Please check carefully that all details are correct.

Alternatively, you can print a blank form, complete it, and return it to the office or post it with your cheque to Port Macquarie Hastings U3A, PO Box 1210, Port Macquarie, 2444.

Recent social events

Afternoon with the Bards

The courtyard on a warm Sunday afternoon was the ideal setting for an audience of around forty to hear a variety of poetry, song and drama. Some performers read or sang their own compositions; others voiced the works of better known bards.

Two acts by Des and Faye Davis with members of their drama group generated some hilarity. The first was the encounter between John Worthing and Lady Bracknell in Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of being Earnest*. The second, from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, saw Faye, as Peter Quince, and Des, as Nick Bottom, set up a farcical scene for their local actors.

Congratulations to the performers (too many to name individually), Betty Starr for organising the event and acting as MC, Ken Churchill for working the sound system, and everyone who contributed to such an enjoyable afternoon's entertainment.

Melbourne Cup



Webmaster captures Office Manager – Andrew and Jenny up close and personal

Colourful hats, chicken, salads and champagne were the order of the day for the fifty or so members who came to the centre to watch the big race. The atmosphere in the courtyard was buzzing as we signed up for the sweepstakes, hoping to go home richer than when we arrived.

With the time for the race drawing near we made our way to the Frank Jennings Room, an air of confidence exuded by those who had drawn the favourite, Admire Rakti. It was almost inevitable that their hopes would be dashed, and so it transpired.

Still, some of the punters were happy. Sue and Pat Clifford and Julie and Jim Eccles almost scooped the pool. As for the rest of us, a few tears shed into the champagne, but there's always next year!

Proposed New Course

Bessie Jennings is considering offering an 8-week (or shorter) course in Term 1, 2015, to be called **'IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH'**. It would help her to know

- (1) who would consider enrolling
- (2) whether you prefer an 8-week course or shorter.
- (3) what day and/or time slots you would prefer.

Bessie would expect to start with basic 'rules' of grammar and punctuation. Then she would hope to clarify and explain some pitfalls that often confuse people, like inappropriate usage of certain words. If you lack confidence in these areas, you may find it fun and quite easy to pick up what you missed in your schooldays.

If you wish, you could also learn some of the ways our language has changed, and why (history of English).

Please contact Bessie by email at bessiejennings@bigpond.com or by phone on 6583 5255 after 6pm when she's not in the garden.

... and fun in another

On Monday 3 November the German Conversation class learnt about the German carnival tradition in Australia.

Prince Rudolf was an active member representing the carnival association all

What's On!

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

Saturday 29 November 2014
12.00 noon - 3.00pm
Tenison Woods Centre BBQ Area
Lochinvar Place
Cost \$15 per person
.....

U3A Summer Break Entertainment

Due to many requests from members to have classes throughout the term break, it has been decided to have a trial run during December/January. The classes will be held on **Wednesday mornings 10 am to 12 noon** at a cost of \$2.00 per member, pay on the day in room 10. Morning tea will be available for \$1.00.

10 December: Movie – Amadeus. A sumptuous period epic celebrating the life and music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

17 December: Trivia Quiz. Prizes galore and lots of fun. BBQ lunch (Sausage/onion sandwich) available \$3.00.

7 January: Movie – Calendar Girls. A Comedy. True story based on a local Women's Institute who decide to produce a calendar to raise funds to help fight leukaemia.

14 January: Travel Documentary. Travels around France with Sue Moll, and Pamela Jackson's tour of Iran.

21 January: Travel Documentary. The experience of working in Northern Alaska by Jill and Harry Williams.

Enquiries to Jacqui Everett
Phone: 6583 5701
Email: jeverett7@bigpond.com

over Australia and shared with us his experience. It was a fun filled afternoon.

The Prince showed us the traditional outfit and medals and the salute to greet everyone.



Doug, Cristina, Hetty, Rudolf, Horst, Anna, Michael, Mara, Michael, and William

Did you know that the carnival was already celebrated in the middle ages and the celebration started on the 11th of November in Germany?

U3A 'Cluster Meeting'



Regional representative Des Davis speaking at the Centre Celebration earlier this year

A few weeks ago a 'cluster' meeting of six U3A associations, arranged by our regional representative, Des Davis, was held at the Centre. As well as PMHU3A and Port Macquarie Watonga U3A, four other associations—Coffs Harbour, Nambucca Valley, Manning Valley and Forster Toncurry—were represented. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss matters of common interest including things such as enlisting new members, recruiting and supporting conveners, membership and course fees, website content and administration, publicity and public relations, working with local councils and communities, and so on. Exchanging ideas with like groups, and observing how they resolve problems or achieve success in particular areas, is a useful exercise and can make an important contribution towards maintaining a successful operation. It was acknowledged by everyone that one area in which PMHU3A holds a great advantage is in having our own premises, allowing several classes to be run simultaneously in one location and providing a focus for social events that promote inclusiveness. At the next meeting, which is to be held early in 2015, again at the PMHU3A Centre, we hope to identify and address the most pressing common issues confronting us.

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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.

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