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Term Dates 2017

6 February – 31 March

1 May – 23 June

24 July – 15 September

16 October – 8 December

Prior to the commencement of Term 1 the Centre will be open for enrolments and the registration of new members between 23 January and 3 February 2017, apart from Australia Day. Information on membership renewals for current members can be found on page 2 of this newsletter. Full enrolment details will appear in the January issue.

Summer Closure

The U3A Centre will be closed from 9 December 2016 to 22 January 2017 inclusive, apart from those days on which special classes or social functions have been scheduled. See **What's 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...

Another year almost at an end, and one that, once again, has been good for U3A. Our achievements during the year are covered in the Annual Report which some of you will already have seen. However, for those of you who haven't I'll mention just a few

- a significant increase in membership
- introduction of a number of new courses in various fields of interest
- capital expenditure of \$14220 on improvements to facilities including shade sails, smart TVs, new computers and printers, and a Zoll Automated External Defibrillator
- a variety of social functions and term break activities
- a financial surplus to add to our reserves and provide for future demands

The report was approved by the 29 members who attended the Annual General Meeting on 4 November and who went on to elect the committee for 2016 – 2017. All four office bearers and four other members of the committee were re-elected but retiring members Maggie Wilson and Kevin Pike were replaced by Karen Roberts and David Burr. Karen has taken over the role of Course Coordinator from Maggie who, over the past six years, has served in that role with great distinction and patience, as well as contributing enormously to the other aspects of our operations. Kevin has left the committee after some seven years during which he served as treasurer for three and president for a further three. It is impossible to over-estimate Kevin's contribution over those years which, as most of you know, included the securing of our magnificent U3A Centre. I am sure that all members will join me in expressing our sincere gratitude to both Maggie and Kevin for all they've done on our behalf, and will also join with me in congratulating everyone on the committee, and especially the new members, on their election.

Congratulations are also in order for David Johnson C.P.A. on his recent election to

Management Committee

2016 – 17

Office Bearers:

President:	Tony Dawson
Vice President:	Jacqui Everett
Secretary:	Sue Moll
Treasurer:	Lorraine Beukers

Committee Members:

Jenny Tucker	Office Administrator
Karen Roberts	Course Coordinator
Michael Rogers	Grants Officer
Pam Hudson	
John Jones	
David Burr	

Auditor:

David Johnson

Public Officer:

Kevin Pike

the Board of the Holiday Coast Credit Union. David is a long-standing and valued member of U3A and acts as our auditor.

The health of our association, of course, depends on all our members. Without our course conveners we would have nothing to offer; without our dedicated office volunteers and IT team we would be unable to run our operations; without those who organise our social functions and maintain the building, the gardens and general facilities, our association would be much poorer; and without all the members who enrol in courses and attend our functions we could not exist. My thanks to everyone for your contribution to our vibrant and happy community, and don't forget to spread the word.

Before closing I would like you to note that our Christmas Party is to be held at the Centre on Friday 25 November, and that our Patron, Rob Oakeshott is to give a special presentation on Saturday 10 December. Details can be found in **What's On**.

And with that I wish you a very happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all again in 2017.

Tony Dawson, President PMHU3A ■

Membership Renewals

Membership renewals for 2017 will be due soon. You will receive further advice either by email or through the office. The annual membership fee remains unchanged at \$35 provided you renew before 10 February 2017. If you renew your current membership after that date, a \$5 joining fee will also be due.

Apart from saving you money, we would appreciate your renewal as early as possible as it helps us to plan for the coming year.

Once you have been advised that renewals are available the simplest and quickest way is via the web site. Log in with your user name and password, go to Members and click Application Form. You can then renew on line or print a form with the information that we have on file about you. 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.

Recording our History

Carol Surrey, a founding member of our association and president from 2005 to 2008, has presented us with an account of the creation and early years of our U3A. Entitled *P.M.H.V. U3A 2004–2008* it is both a personal memoir and documentary record of how the seed that led to our flourishing association was first planted and nourished. It is a fascinating story about a small group of like-minded people who, through sheer enthusiasm and determination, established a new organisation devoted to the provision of learning opportunities for older people, the success of which is now evident to everyone.

Carol's gift is a timely reminder of the importance of securing our records so that when, in the future, someone else comes forward to write our history, the information is readily accessible.

Establishing an archive is something that has been on my agenda for some time but although we have purchased a number of high quality archive boxes and folders, that is as far as we've got. What's holding us back is the time to do the work

THE FILING CABINET OF THE GODS



since current and former committee members – the people most likely to know where the records are located – face other, more pressing demands.

However, there's a chance that among our 800-plus members there are one or two who might be interested in the task and are able to devote some time to it. If you're one of them please get in touch with me, either directly or through the office, and we can have a chat about what's involved. I look forward to hearing from you.

Tony Dawson

Melbourne Cup Lunch

Sixty five members and guests joined in the fun at the Melbourne Cup Lunch on 1 November. Elegant and colourful hats and dresses were on show and even one or two of the gentlemen exhibited considerable sartorial taste.

On arrival there was the important business of purchasing sweepstake tickets from Pam and Kevin Hudson. Then into the courtyard where Greg Dark and Laurie



Lardner were tending the barbecues and a sumptuous array of salads prepared by social committee volunteers Di Gander, Jacqui Everett, Sue Clifford, Faye Lardner and Nancy Owen were laid out.

A delicious lunch was rounded off with a magnificent range of slices and once the meal had settled we drifted into rooms 10 and 8 where, thanks to Ken Churchill, the big race was to be shown on the big screens. Nervously fingering our sweepstake tickets we watched as the horses jumped from the starting gate and jostled their way around the course. Into the finishing straight and the excitement was palpable as Almandin got to the post a 'long head' in front of Heartbreak City.

So it was over for another year. Winners and losers alike had had a great afternoon at what is always one of our most successful annual functions. See you next November.

[more photos page 4]

Member Profiles

As noted in the president's report the Management Committee has two new members, Karen Roberts, who has taken on the role of Course Coordinator, and David Burr. They are very welcome additions to the committee and we thought you'd like to know a bit more about them.

Much of Karen's adult life has been as wife, to Chris, mother to five sons and their partners, and now grandmother to eight boys and one girl. Her professional career was as a high school teacher in English and Special Education, ending as principal of Inverell High School. Three years ago she and Chris moved to Port Macquarie where Chris intended to join the rifle club, one of his main hobbies. A month after arriving the club was closed down to make way for airport extensions.

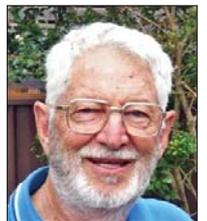
Karen originally joined U3A at the Pilot's Cottage as a way to meet people and to keep learning. She has always tried to keep fit, including doing yoga, and when she retired she thought it was time to fulfil a long-held dream of undertaking yoga teacher training. Since the start of 2015 she has been teaching Yogalates at U3A and in 2016 she added Chair Yoga classes. She is also trained in coaching, holistic counselling and reiki. In any spare time in her busy life she loves gardening, reading and travel.



David is a gadget man and Jack of all trades having been involved in farming, trucking, selling, retailing, aerial agriculture, building and, finally, insurance for 25 years.

After rearing and educating five sons he and Dorothy moved to Port Macquarie in 1996. They spent much of their time extending and improving their retirement home, becoming involved in volunteer work, and doing the Grey Nomad thing, visiting and exploring many corners of our Wide Brown Land.

David joined U3A in 2014 and moved into St Agnes Village two years ago, becoming involved in the Broadband for Seniors program and the Residents' Committee. He is a member of the U3A Convener Support Team and also runs a course in Android Tablets.



What's happening about courses for 2017?

I want to start by saying a big thank you to Maggie Wilson for her support in 'teaching me the ropes'. I'm looking forward to working with the U3A committee and all members to maintain the current high standard and range of courses offered, and to support ideas for new courses. So let's have a look at what's happening for next year:

Current conveners – you will soon receive an email asking you to confirm your plans for 2017.

New conveners – have you ever considered running a course? Or do you have a suggestion for a course but are unsure about being the convener? Support is available, and remember that the basic role of a convener is to organise a program and act as the contact person. It does not mean that you have to teach the course. So why not contact me and see what's possible?

New courses – a survey will be sent by email to members in December to gather information about courses you would like to see offered at U3A. Perhaps you can suggest a one-week topic, a course that could span a few weeks, or one that could run for a term or longer. You might like to be the course convener or share the role with others, but the main thing is to give us your ideas.

Karen Roberts, Course Coordinator ■

For many members there's a constancy in their relationship with U3A. It's a bit like marriage and so, in accordance with bridal tradition, let's look at something old, something new, and...er...something else.

Something old — Australian History

"History", wrote novelist Julian Barnes, "is that certainty produced at the point where the imperfections of memory meet the inadequacies of documentation." Yet much as we might like to think of history as a set of facts, certainty is elusive.

Unfortunately, 'history' is not something on which everyone can agree. When Arthur Phillip brought the First Fleet to Sydney Cove in 1788 was he settling or invading the country? Was Ned Kelly a folk hero or a cold-blooded killer? Was Governor Bligh a dangerous despot or a protector of the small settlers? What is the truth behind the Anzac legend?

Australian History is one of our foundation courses and still going strong. In it we look at the people and events that have shaped Australia, from Aboriginal farming to Slim Dusty's contribution to our musical culture. Explorers, convicts, pioneer women, poets, politicians, bushrangers, military heroes, social activists, artists – they're all in the mix. There's something for everyone in Australian History.

Tony Dawson

Something new — Linux

Linux (for those who didn't know) is an operating system for your computer which, just like Windows or Mac OS, manages the communication between the computer's software and hardware. However, it has

the advantage of being completely free and much less susceptible to the security concerns that afflict some other operating systems. In fact, while you rarely hear about it, Linux is already in widespread use – in phones, cars, supercomputers, servers and the internet. And even in its simplest form anyone can use it for everyday things like email, browsing, and playing music or movies.

Linux is distributed in various forms ('distros') but the one most used for personal computing is Ubuntu, an Afrikaans word meaning "humanity to others."

Werner Willinger knows all about Linux Ubuntu and is offering to run a course at U3A if there is sufficient interest. He will show you how to install and use it for the things you want to do on your computer.

Incidentally, the Linux mascot is this cute little fellow.



Tux

The proposed course is aimed at beginners and if you're interested please let us know by contacting the U3A office. If you'd like more information please contact Werner directly at wrwillinger@iinet.com.au or by phone on 6586 0890.

Something else — Improve Your Writing with Rita

Writing is a constant itch that has to be scratched for those of us infected by the bug. It's immensely satisfying to put one's thoughts and feelings into poetry or prose

What's On!

ENROLMENT DATES – TERM 1 2017
See page 1.

PMHU3A TERM DATES 2017
See page 1.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday 25 November
5.30pm for 6.00pm
U3A Centre

Catered by XS Food

Cost \$25 per person – tickets may be purchased at the office

SPECIAL PRESENTATION — ROB OAKESHOTT

Saturday 10 December
10.00am – 12.00 noon

U3A Centre

Our Patron, Rob Oakeshott, former member for Lyne, will speak about his work as an as an advisor for the United Nations Development Program in Myanmar, Fiji and the Solomon Islands, providing technical advice to emerging parliamentary democracies.

Cost \$2 – for morning tea/coffee

CONVENERS' LUNCH

The annual lunch for conveners will be held at Blue Water Bar and Restaurant, Flynn's Beach Resort on Thursday 19 January 2017. Conveners will receive an invitation and further details in due course.

that captures the precise sense, paints the word picture, communicates the heart of the matter. Then to have an audience of others who are keen to listen as you read to them and able to give constructive feedback over much laughter and head scratching, well that's just pure joy. Belonging to



a group of writers who are anxious to receive the same in return, dedicated to improving their writing, is supportive and nurturing, whilst challenging one to think deeply about the complex issues and skills it takes to write well. As for the next step of finding a publisher willing to make your work available to the world – the only word for that is ecstasy.

Rita Spencer



Melbourne Cup Lunch



First meeting of the new committee (minus treasurer Lorraine Beukers) - 8 November

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Port Macquarie NSW 2444
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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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