

HASTINGS VALLEY U3A

PO Box 1210 Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Newsletter

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Congratulations & welcome to all the foundation members of the Hastings Valley U3A. Over 85 of you so far and more to come. We launched our Association at a Public Meeting on the 6th December 2004. One hundred and seventy enthusiastic people attended. Seventy paid their fees & became full members that day. This was a rewarding result for the Steering Committee and a job well done by them.

Once the idea of a local U3A was sown we received warm & positive feedback from the community and excellent support from various organizations. The Hastings Council & Mayor Rob Drew, Robin Hardman & her staff at Port Macquarie Library, the Newspapers, Radio Stations, the many Probus Clubs, the Active & Older Association, the Seniors' Computer Club all contributed in one way or another. The advice & practical help from Ern & Pam Hollebhone (Manning Valley U3A) was invaluable and a special thank you to the all the folk who were willing to help out at the Public Meeting. With so much good will we are off to a good start in 2005.

This year we are planning a U3A picnic early in first term to for U3A members to get to know each other and meet the Committee members. In the meanwhile here is a little about each one.

President: Dr. Bob Gerdes: (6584 0377) Bob's professional life began as an industrial chemist in metallurgical and then in food industry laboratories. He went on later to teach and to do research as a biochemist in a number of universities. He has worked in departments concerned with microbial genetics, biochemistry, forensic medicine (toxicology) and prior to his retirement was Head of the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology at The University of New England.

Vice President & Course Co-ordinator: Carol Surrey: (6586 1792) Carol retired as an Assistant School Principal after many years of teaching. In her spare time she trained as marriage guidance & family counsellor, became a clinical member of the A.A.M.F.C and worked in private practice. She was a member of the Institute of Group leaders and spent many hours facilitating Personal Growth Groups plus training & supervising counsellors.

Secretary: Brian Syms: (6582 7674) After training as an electrical engineer in the UK, Brian spent many years in TAFE NSW as a teacher, and later as an educational manager. Immediately before retirement he was the Director of Northern Beaches TAFE in Sydney. Since coming to Port he has been actively involved in a number of organizations, including PROBUS, the Friends of the ABC, Active and Older and the Residents Action Network.

Treasurer: Ruth Lincoln: (6582 0389) Ruth worked as an accountant for TNT (Thomas Nationwide Transport), rising to National Administration Manager for all Australian states and New Zealand. When her husband was made a Director of Shipping she left and became Administration Manager for Washington H. Soul Pattinson Co. When her husband retired they moved to a farm in Leongatha Victoria. They came to Port in 2001

Membership Secretary: John Neilson: (6586 1529) John is a retired mining engineer and TAFE teacher. His other interests include telephone and relationship counselling. Locally John has been involved in a Seniors Computer Users' Group, Friends of the ABC, the Safety House Committee and Technical Aid For The Disabled (TAD). He has also worked as a moderator in the "Smokenders" smoking cessation program.

