



Newsletter

Volume 4 number 3

Term 3 2008

Patron

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Member for
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6586 1792

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Harry Bryant

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Treasurer

Stuart Whan
6583 5671

Membership Secretary

Bob Gerdes
6584 0377

Course Coordinator

Ursula Bruce
6583 8520

Members

Beverley Izard
John Neilson

Webmaster

Nick Ogbourne
6586 1627

**Our next Registration
and Enrolment Day
will be on:**

**Tuesday 22nd July
1.30 pm – 2.30pm
Auditorium,
Port Macquarie
Seniors Facility,
Munster Street,
Port Macquarie.**

**Please note: No enrol-
ments will be taken before
1.30 pm. Only Committee
Members and Course Con-
veners will be admitted to
the auditorium before 1.30
pm.**

Welcome to Term 3 and my last Newsletter as President.

Monday 22nd September: HVU3A will hold our AGM in the Pioneers Room at the Seniors Centre in Munster Street, Port Macquarie, starting at 10.00am. This is the first Monday after the end of Term 3 and it will not compete with any U3A courses. All members are encouraged to be present to vote in a new Committee and have their say on the future direction of our U3A.

Changes. There will be a few significant changes on the Committee this September. Some Committee members will stand for office again others will pursue different interests. I do not look forward to the year where we could have a total change of Committee members or we do not have enough nominations to form a Committee. Fortunately, this won't happen this year.

I will be stepping down from the role of President after 3 years, 15 Newsletters and 4½ years of very constant but rewarding work. I am aware I am looking forward to a less demanding role and more time to attend courses.

At this stage I would like to pay tribute all the folk who have served on the Committee over these past years. Committee members have come and gone but all have contributed to the development and management of the HVU3A. There are a few people I will single out for a special mention first John Neilson and Secretary Brian Syms. John and Brian started with me on the Steering Committee in late 2004 and over the past 4 years they have contributed much of their time and energy to establishing our most successful organization. Bob Gerdes was also on the Steering Committee and served as our President until our first AGM in September 2005. After a few years break Bob has rejoined the Committee as our Membership Secretary. Harry Bryant was voted in a Vice President in September 2004 and after 3 years he proposes to step down from the Committee. Harry deputised for me and chaired our meetings when I was still Course Coordinator as well as President. Ursula Bruce took over my role as Course Coordinator and has done a great job of organizing our courses, venues and tutors. Beverly Izard is our resident guru on constitutional matters and meeting procedures and was most helpful with updating our constitution. Our newest member, Stuart Whan, became Treasurer in January this year and has simplified some of our financial reporting. Quietly working away in the back ground is our Webmaster, Nick Ogbourne. Nick set up our U3A website in 2005 and over the years he has continued to update and improve our site which is now receiving compliments from other U3As in the state. Well done Nick. All our Committee members, past and present, have been very talented people, very dedicated people and each one has brought their own expertise to contribute to the collective wisdom of the Committee. It has been a pleasure to work with them. A simply thank you hardly seems enough but it is sincere and it is heart-felt. Thank you.

My Last Few Words as President.

The Hasting Valley U3A is now a very viable and firmly established organisation in the Hastings Valley. It is meeting the specific needs of many people and it has a great potential for growth as more and more retirees move into the area. As I step down from my role as President the only concern I wish to voice is in the area of retaining a viable Committee with enough members to function and meet the needs of our growing membership. Sadly, I have watched a number of non-profit organizations close their doors simply because not enough people have volunteered for a role on the Committee. A good example of this is the local Australian Plant Society and many other organizations are struggling to continue. Canberra's U3A has membership of well over 3000 and they barely managed to attract a quorum of 50 at their AGM. They received

only 11 offers for the 12 vacant positions. Two years ago I raised the possibility of employing a U3A Coordinator on a casual basis. I would see this person becoming a key figure in the U3A. He or she would:

- train the volunteers in the office when we have our own home base
- be pivotal in the area of administration as Committee members come & go
- oil the wheels of change and keep the organisation flowing
- ensure that everyday administrative chores are done with regularity & consistency
- save the HVU3A from possible extinction.

My limited research indicates that the most successful non-profit organisation have a paid office coordinator. Already some U3As are employing an assistant and it is working well. An excellent example is Noosa's U3A in Queensland. Finally, I would like to refer to a speech by Dr Jack McDonnell AM, the man who introduced U3As to Australia in 1984-5. Jack gave his talk in 2005 at the 20th anniversary celebration of U3As in Australia. He suggested that perhaps the time has arrived for individual U3As to look at the possibility of hiring an office coordinator and he clearly states that such an arrangement would have no impact on policies and programme arrangements which will still be looked after by a volunteer committee. I am sure the time will come for the HVU3A members to make a decision - to employ, to struggle on or just fade away. In the meantime enjoy what we have today.

Honorary Solicitor. We are delighted to announce that Tony Cox from STACKS, The Law Firm, has kindly agreed to be the Honorary Solicitor for the Hastings Valley U3A. Hopefully, we will never have to call upon Tony's services but it is comforting to know he will be there if we ever need him. Thank you, Tony.

U3A Website. Our webmaster, Nick Ogbourne, has just updated our website and it really is quite impressive. It is beautifully presented and well set out. Among other things, Nick has created a photo gallery and from time to time we will be posting pictures of our U3A members at 'work'. If anyone has an objection to having their photograph in the gallery (or our Newsletter), please write to the Secretary and make this fact known. We will always respect your privacy but we must first be aware of your need.

Free Courses – Changes. From now on members who wish to attend any of our free courses, must indicate their intention on Enrolment Day by putting their name on an Enrolment Form. The Course Coordinator will then gauge the level of interest and she can pass the information on to the Course Leader. This will avoid the embarrassment of having the Tutor arrive only to find he or she has no participants.

Late Enrollees & Payment of Accommodation Fees. In the past the Treasurer has had a problem collecting & recording when each late enrollee has paid his/her accommodation fees. To overcome this difficulty we have added an extra column to the Attendance Form. Here the member will initial and record the date on which they have sent their late fee to the Treasurer and this should be within the first week of attendance. Often the late enrollee owes a

small amount, \$5 or less. We suggest they send this fee in the form of 50 cents stamps with a covering note. This will make it easier for all concerned.

The Course Convenor will also pass on to the Treasurer the names of the late enrollees and the Course Convenor will check the Attendance Form before he/she sends it to the Treasurer at the end of the course or term.

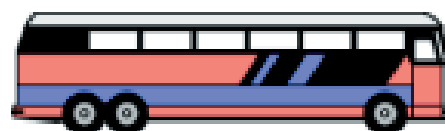
Welcome winter. Attending U3A courses is an excellent antidote for those winter blues.

So put on your warm woollens, keep your mind active and enroll in some of our interesting courses listed in the Course Brochure.

Best wishes for Term 3 and the future.

Carol Surrey.
President

U3A Canberra Bus trip



TRAVELWORLD LAURIETON have organised a
5 DAY COACH TOUR TO CANBERRA -
for U3A members - from

10th November 08 to 14th November 08.

Accommodation will be at the
PAVILLION AT NORTHBOURNE
4 stars, Canberra.

5 Star Coach from Forster Coach Co., Wonderful time seeing all the sights of Canberra, with accommodation including Breakfast in the Dining Room, 3 Dinners, 2 Lunches, 2 morning teas. Full Itinerary can be posted to you by Phoning Tracy Whitling at Laurieton Travel 02 65596959 Cost per person based on 30 passengers,

\$895.00. Twin Share.

Single supplement applies for Single room. Come along and join the fun with the Australian History Group U3A. Pick ups will be from Emerald Downs and Hayward Street Coach Terminal. **HOPE YOU CAN COME WITH US:**

Delwyn Hatton, Wednesday History Group
Phone 65 821885 for preliminary enquiries.

Why Couples get 2 copies of our Newsletter

Often our newsletters contain notices we have a legal requirement to send to all members. To ensure we always meet this requirement we send 2 copies of all our newsletters to couples, even when they are at the same address. We suggest that members receiving a spare copy in this way share it with their friends who are not yet U3A members.

The U3A Eclectic Dining Group

We have met three times since the start of term 1 and the success has been fantastic. We started out with 16 members responding to the term 1 newsletter, however, when it came to forming a table on our first dinner only nine members were available.

From this initial group, there was unanimous agreement that no table should exceed 12 members, and that those who attended the first dinner should gain priority for future outings.

Word must have circulated around and the second dinner response went so well that some members, who wanted to attend, had that opportunity denied them in order to abide by the 12 members table ruling and priority decision. Sorry folks – I have a reserve list and if one or more of the original members cannot make it, I will make contact with you. However, this may be on a one off basis, so please bear this in mind and not get upset, as has happened, if you do not get invited every time.

Forming another dining group could possibly alleviate the situation of members wanting to dine out, and I understand this is about to occur.

Let me explain this '12 member table ruling': Some restaurants do not have the breadth nor width to allow more tables and chairs in a line and the dining intimacy would suffer by extended attendance. We also like to stretch out and not feel a lack of elbow room; a bit like travelling business class over economy. As things are, we tend to play musical chairs during the evening, to converse with as many people as possible. I have noticed there are great debaters and lovable chatterboxes among the diners.

David Twitchen



the group dining at Mi Casa on 29th May 2008

STACKS/PORT

A member of **STACKS THE LAW FIRM**

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We provide legal services in the areas of Civil litigation, Property/Commercial/Business law, Wills and Estates, Family Law, Criminal law, Land and Environment, Local Government and Industrial and Workplace relations

News Commentary.

There stand like ox or soar like vulture
disinheritors of belief and culture.

Through temporal mode they serve to plunder
our days of awe and times of wonder.

They attack their own with blood bespattered
and eulogise as if it mattered;
grand of words and smick of clothing.

Less news bringers than agitators
they're blessed TV's commentators;
they serve a role to keep things open
but give us rage instead of hopin'.

But - avoiding this manipulation,
alas, my world is a cloistered nation.
Turn them off - they bring no cheer -
and attend the fridge and crack a beer.

By Brian Tolagson

Letters to the Editor

We encourage our members to write to us with suggestions for improving both this newsletter and, of course our U3A. Longer contributions relating to the activities of our U3A are also welcome.

Space for letter from Carol Hill

Newsletter contributions.

If your group is doing something interesting , something different or going on an excursion please let us know.

A short report accompanied by some photographs would be wonderful.

We will publish your contributions for every one to enjoy.

Geology Field Trip

We have received a report and photos from Jacqui Krawitz and Tony Earle about the Geology Field Trip that was held in the vacation between terms 1 and 2. Unfortunately we don't have enough room to do it justice in this newsletter, so we will attach it to our web site so you all can see the complete illustrated version.

Dates to mark in your diaries.

Term 3 2008	Enrolment	Tues 22 July
	Start	28 July, End 19 Sept
Term 4 2008	Enrolment	Tues 14 October
	Start	20 Oct End 12 December

Replacement Name Cards - lanyards & pouches.

If you have lost your Name Card or did not receive your Name Card, please contact our Membership Secretary, Bob Gerdes on **6584 0377**. Replacement Lanyards and pouches may be purchased from Bob on Enrolment Day at the beginning of each Term.

Newsletter.

Do let the secretary know if you are a member and do not receive your own copy of this newsletter. This newsletter will be published just before the start of each term, and contain information about groups and activities for the term ahead.

Name Badges.

New members may collect their name badges from the Reference Desk at Port Macquarie Library. Please let Bob Gerdes know if you have not received your badge. Members are requested to wear their badges when attending any U3A activity.

Again we remind all members to have their contact numbers on the back of their badges in case of an emergency.

In answer to a few enquiries as to why some name cards are hand written, this happens when just one or two name cards are required and it is uneconomical to use a whole sheet of cards to print them from the computer ...mystery solved.

Change of address.

Please let the Secretary or Membership Secretary know if you move house and especially if you change your email address

If undelivered return to:

Hastings Valley U3A Inc
PO Box 1210
Port Macquarie
NSW 2444

**SURFACE
MAIL**

Late Enrolments

Late enrolments are welcome in many courses. Please contact the Course Convener directly to ascertain if he/she is accepting additional members. If you enrol after the course has started you pay only for the rest of the term. You should post your remittance to the Treasurer with a covering note, and initial the attendance form to show you have paid. If the amount owing is less than \$5 we will accept postage stamps as payment.

Names cannot be entered on the Attendance Sheet unless accommodation fees have been paid. Money cannot be paid to the group leader during the term.

Enrolments will not be accepted for new courses prior to the official enrolment day.

Attention Course Conveners.

You are asked to come to enrolment by 1:15 pm

This will give you an opportunity to meet other course leaders and learn about venues, record keeping and enrolment procedure prior to meeting your prospective group members for next term. Please inform the Secretary, Brian Syms, if you are planning any excursions away from your usual meeting place. Dates & details are required for insurance purposes.

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