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

**Tuesday 3rd February
1.30 pm - 2.30 pm
Auditorium,
Port Macquarie
Seniors Facility,
Munster Street,
Port Macquarie**

Please note: No enrolments will be taken before 1.30pm. Only Committee Members and Course Conveners will be admitted to the auditorium before 1.30 pm.

Greetings and welcome to Term 1, 2009.

New President

To start the New Year off I would like to introduce our new President, Dr Des Davis PhD OAM. After graduating from Sydney University, Des taught in high schools in Lismore and Lithgow and then transferred to Newcastle Teachers' College where he taught Drama and English. From there Des, his wife Faye and four young children moved to Canada where he lectured at Brock University on the Niagara Peninsula. Ten years later the family returned to Australia. In Wollongong Des and Faye founded Theatre South, one of six regional theatres in NSW. In 1995 Des was awarded an OAM for his contribution to theatre, and a Writers Guild AWGIE for his support of Australian playwrights.

After moving to Port Macquarie, Des quickly became involved in the U3A and now he looks forward to enjoying the role of President, replacing Brian Syms who, unfortunately, had to resign unexpectedly. With his background in education and his love of the theatre, Des will be able to contribute much to the future direction and growth of the HVU3A. We warmly welcome him onto the Committee.

New Committee Member

Another warm welcome to Barry Owens. Prior to moving to Port Macquarie, Barry held senior positions in large funds management organizations, had his own consultancy business and was CEO of a public company, all of which were primarily involved in wealth creation through managing property funds and investments. Barry and his wife, Marilyn, moved to Port Macquarie in 2005. Since then Barry has served on the Port Macquarie Hastings Council Airport Advisory Committee and also worked as a casual staff member in the position of Commercial Property Projects Officer. In his spare time he also took up a Directorship with the Holiday Coast Credit Union and became a member of the Port Pirates Rugby Club. Barry's skills and energy will be a great asset for our U3A and with our two new Committee members we can now look forward to an interesting and productive year ahead.

Resignation

After much thought Robin Hansen realised that travelling to and from her home west of Wauchope, a round trip of 60 km, was more than she anticipated. It is with much regret we accept Robin's resignation. We do appreciate her contribution to the U3A, especially the design of the HVU3A logo.

Newsletter

Thank you to Sue Clifford for offering to format our Newsletter and Course Brochure before it goes to the printer. This is a task that requires a lot of skill and Sue is very experienced with Desktop Publishing. Thank you, Sue; your contribution is much appreciated.

Emerald Downs Community Centre

The Port Macquarie-Hastings Council has invited expressions of interest from local not-for-profit organisations to manage and use this community centre. Our application was completed and lodged with the council on the 10th of December, 2008. Brian Syms' contribution to planning our submission was much appreciated.

The site would be an ideal home base for the HVU3A. It would meet many of our accommodation needs. However, I believe we will still need to use a number of the venues that we currently hire as membership is increasing each year as more retirees move into the Hastings Valley. We are the biggest organisation of our kind in this area. The centre would give us office space, three group rooms and one large room with a comfortable kitchen – a welcome space for “Coffee & Chat”. We would be able to buy some much needed teaching aids and have somewhere to store the files, records and maybe even have a library. It is hard not to feel excited about it but I am sure the competition will be keen and we, like the other applicants, will just have to sit back, be patient and keep our fingers crossed.

Wauchope – Good News

I am pleased to announce we shall be conducting courses at Wauchope. So far we have 4 courses ready to start off the New Year. Many thanks to the Tutors who are willing to offer these courses in Term 1. We are looking forward to hearing from any other Tutor who is prepared to convene a short or long course at Wauchope. Please contact Ursula on 6583 8030. All the courses will be held at the Library in High Street and any member who lives in Port Macquarie would be most welcome to attend the courses at Wauchope, numbers permitting.

2009 Renewals

People who are renewing their membership for 2009 on Enrolment Day, please collect your new membership card from the small table near the Treasurer. Please be aware that you cannot enrol in a course without showing the Tutor your 2009 name card.

ICE (In Case of an Emergency).

Just a reminder to write your contact name and number on the back of your new 2009 membership card. This means if you become ill or have an accident during a U3A course or excursion, we can notify a family member or friend immediately.

History Group's Trip to Canberra

Bouquets to Anita Dulhunty & Del Hatton for organising our visit to Canberra last November. Besides booking us into many places of interest, Anita and Del added their own little niceties e.g. a basket of sweets to be shared on the bus and quizzes to pass the time as we travelled the long route to Canberra. These thoughtful little touches certainly did make our trip special and contributed largely to the warm and friendly feeling generated in our group.

One thing we didn't count on was the gastroenteritis bug that bowled over more than half of our members plus many other guests at the resort. Some folk ended up on drips and others hospitalised. It was quite a severe outbreak but, amazingly, all recovered just as quickly as they got sick.

Two things I learnt from this experience:

1. Always carry your In Case of Emergency (ICE) information on the back of your name card.
2. Keep a list of your medications in your handbag/wallet – not in your suitcase because if you are taken to hospital your case does not go with you but your handbag/wallet will be carried in the ambulance/taxi etc.

In spite of this unexpected drama it really was a most interesting trip and again thanks to Anita & Del for those little extras and a well planned trip.

Course Brochure

Please note that short courses are no longer listed separately. All courses, whether short or long, will be listed under the day on which they are to be conducted.

All the best for Term 1 and dare I say THIS is my last Newsletter.

All's well that ends well.

Carol Surrey

Vice President

Uncollected 2009 membership cards and lanyards

Our membership secretary, Bob Gerdes, has a number of 2009 membership cards and lanyards that weren't collected from the Port Macquarie Library. If you haven't received your 2009 membership card yet, please contact Bob.

Snippets and Snaps of the History Group's Expedition to Cairo – No, no, sorry...it was Canberra!

I believe it was 31 adventurous souls who braved the bus journey to far flung fields. One may be forgiven for the confusion of destination. So — mea culpa, mea culpa. Canberra? (yes, it was Canberra; I checked the map) was dry and looking a little worse for wear, compliments of the drought. The itinerary was interesting. Thanks to the organizers' efforts. The National Museum. The Memorial Service (11/11) with VIP's thicker on the ground than thistles. The National Film Archives. A lunch at an historical property on the fringes of Cairo – sorry again – it was Canberra. A night cruise on the Nile. No no no (sorry). It was Lake Birley Griffen. Should you be wondering about the confusion re the destination, I should enlighten you a tad.

Day two of the expedition a number of the contingent came down with the dreaded D&V's. To the uninitiated that is gastroenteritis. Of unproven origin at this stage. However those of us who have a little of the Sherlock Holmes in us, the consensus may be poor food handling at the hotel, as another group in the hotel suffered the same fate.

Rumour has it that one of the more assertive/savvy member of the contingent called in the Health Department which, happily, acted with vigour and alacrity. Three doctors and at least three other personnel inserted intravenous drips, in (I think) 10 people in the hotel. Four went to hospital for varying number of hours. Forty people in all enjoyed the day over a bucket or toilet.

Commiserations for those who fell victim to the Cairo traveler's gift.

I keep forgetting it was Canberra, Australia.

It was not a boring expedition. Those of us who had not sinned were spared the gastronomic punishment

and I feel guilty, if not just a little smug, that I, with the others of the virtuous, was spared the dreaded D&V's.

A brief refrain may be appropriate here—

Now do not be offended

No insult was intended,

And I think it really splendid,

For its only fun you know.

Cheers,

Sue Jones, Your intrepid foreign correspondent



History Group – Lunch at Old Parliament House.

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.

No letters were received for this edition of the newsletter.

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 everyone to enjoy.

HVU3A offers courses that provide general information for its members. HVU3A does not warrant that such information is true and correct. Members seeking to rely on anything said or done in this regard should seek independent, expert advice.

BYRNES & COX

LAWYERS

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A Reputation Built on Results

Dates to mark in your diaries:

Term 1 2009	Enrolment	Tuesday 3 February
	Start	9 Feb
	End	3 April
Term 2 2009	Enrolment	Tuesday 28 April
	Start	4 May
	End	26 June

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 contains 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 emergency.

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**

Enrolments

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

We do not have the ability to accept or process postal enrolments. However, asking someone else to enrol for you is acceptable. In general, committee members are not able to undertake this role.

Late enrolments are welcome in many courses. However, you ***MUST*** first contact the Course Convener direct 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.

Course Conveners and Excursions

Please inform the Secretary if you are planning any excursions away from your usual meeting place. Dates & details are required for insurance purposes.

Photographs and Privacy

If anyone has an objection to having their photograph in the on line gallery (or in 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.

Opinions expressed here or in HVU3A activities are not necessarily those of HVU3A or its officers. HVU3A accepts no responsibility for statements or opinions expressed. We reserve the right to edit any material submitted for publication. Copyright of all original material remains with the author.