

## U3A on the move again

This is the first opportunity to inform the whole membership of developments on the “home” front.

After we had accepted the offer of the old library and held our Enrolment Day there, our benefactor, Father Donnelley, came to us with an even better proposition. He offered us the rooms on the ground floor of the building on the opposite side of the courtyard. He agreed to repaint the walls, finish the carpeting, install our sink which we had already purchased, help us with the move over, improve the toilet facility and other improvements. And best of all he offered us a five year lease at \$3000 a year. It is a good deal for us in so many ways. He had developed sudden new plans for the rest of the site, plans extremely compatible with our usage, and he wanted us to move almost immediately. Hence the rush to move.

We have been able to use almost all of the funds we expended on the first “new” premises. In our “new” new home we have some work to do – on air conditioning for example, and we still need another 60 or so chairs, but classes have begun there and next term more classes will move there. An office has opened and will be manned by volunteers Mon-Fri mornings and afternoons as well – if we get enough volunteers. Renewals and memberships can be made there, registration for courses can be accepted and messages can be left. The phone is on, the computer is set up, broadband is connected.

The home will become the heart of our U3A. At the next Open Day we will hold a vote on what we want to call it.

Tribute must be paid to Brian Tolagson, who has borne the brunt of the work needed to make all this happen. Thank you Brian. ■

## Seniors Week

Keep your eye on the local news for any developments beyond the following:

U3A has two events lined up for the week:

1. **A “Launch” of our new premises.** On **March 23th At 4.00pm** after Show Time! we will have a short ceremony and speeches and then some appropriate refreshments and mingling. All welcome, including the general public, to the celebration. Please register with the office so we have some idea of numbers.
2. **March 24th at 11.00am** Keith Windshuttle, the well-known historian, will be a guest speaker for the combined Australian History Groups and any other interested members. ■

## Still to come...Show Time!

Show Time! is a new initiative for U3A. It is, like Open Days, an opportunity to come together for something different and interesting.

If you didn't register on Enrolment Day, you can do so now with a phone call to the office 6584-3676 or email [desfaye76@gmail.com](mailto:desfaye76@gmail.com) or 6583-9105

Registration is vital as we have a limited, though reasonably large capacity in the Hall.

### Feb 23rd – A Taste of France

An informative tour of France with photographer Warren Scott, an introduction to a famous French painting by David de Giustino, a famous French cello composition with Cathy Davis and a most unusual quiz show by the French class of Mme Celine Bird.

### Mar 16th– Talent Night

Bessie Jennings “Elderly Bush Poets Can be Cheeky” and supporting entertainment from Wilma Ritchie, Cathy Davis, and Faye and Des Davis

### Mar 23rd – Who are we and why are we who we are?

A forum on Australian Identity with Eric Graham on History, Brian Tolagson on environment, Des Davis on Culture, and whoever else wants to get into the discussion.

Open to all members. “Appropriate” refreshments are available for a small charge. (No more than \$4 depending on the nature of the refreshments.)

**Time:** 2.00 – 4.00 or thereabouts

**Venue:** Warlters St premises Main Hall ■

## Milestone birthdays!



Frank and Bessie Jennings, two of our very popular and respected convenors, celebrating their 80th birthdays at the Port City Bowling Club February 5, 2010 with many U3A friends.

### U3A office details

9.30am – 12 noon

Monday – Friday

Phone: 6584 3676

Web site: [www.pmhu3a.org.au](http://www.pmhu3a.org.au)

## U3A Members “Web Users” course on offer

Some of you may be aware that we have redesigned our web site; [www.pmhu3a.org.au](http://www.pmhu3a.org.au) now offers additional features for you, members of U3A, beyond those available to the general public. These include the opportunity to contact your course convenors directly and to read any course notes that they may prepare.

In addition, you will be able to renew your membership on line, make sure that information such as course times have not changed and much more. We will provide additional features in the future.

For those members who do not use the Internet, please be assured that we will continue to serve you as in the past. You will not suffer any disadvantage.

Matthew Wallace will conduct 3 training sessions to explain how you can use the web site including:

1. The public view of the web site.
2. A member's expanded view of the web site.
3. How to log in.
4. Completing and changing your profile.
5. How to recover your password.

6. Looking around – the PMHU3A calendar.
7. How to send messages to course convenors.
8. Renewing your membership on line.

**Commencing:** Friday 19 March  
**Times:** 10:00 am to 11:30 am  
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm  
3:00 pm to 4:40 pm  
**Venue:** Warlters St Main Hall  
**Convenor:** Matthew Wallace  
**Class Limit:** 40 each class

Please ring Ursula on 6583-8030 or email [coursecoordinator@pmhu3a.org.au](mailto:coursecoordinator@pmhu3a.org.au) to reserve a place. ■

## Aung Mingala Farm

Although it was a hot day at the farm (37C outdoors and 33C indoors) Tin made us feel very welcome and her young French students, Cyrial (renamed “Han” and Sabrina (renamed “Aung”), looked after us with enthusiasm. The students are called “woofers” (Workers on Organic Farms)

Everyone enjoyed the delicious 3-course Burmese banquet Tin and her woofers put on for us. “Han” and “Aung” were delightful and charming and Tin entertained us with traditional Burmese dances and then...we were *all* part of the entertainment – singing and folk dancing. It was a bit too hot for some for the garden tour but a number stayed on.

I can highly recommend a visit to the Aung Mingala Farm – but go when the weather is a bit cooler.  
— Sue Clifford



## IMPORTANT ! PLEASE NOTE !

### Changes to Application Procedures and name cards

Membership Renewal will no longer require you to fill out the old form. Identification by name, address and membership number will be sufficient along with any changes in details of address, phone or email previously supplied.

“New” membership will require the full application form to be completed.

Name cards with pouches and lanyards will now be available from our Warlters Street office (weekdays 9:30 till noon). New members are requested to collect their name card, lanyard and pouch from the U3A office which can be done conveniently when attending courses.

We have also produced our newly-designed cards for all financial members; please pick up your new name card at the office in Warlters Street. ■

### Change to Payment Procedure

Those long queues could be a thing of the past! The ongoing development of our U3A web site will enable you to renew your membership in a number of ways.

1. Renew on-line and post your cheque/money order to the Treasurer.
2. Post your cheque/money order with your Application/Renewal form to the Treasurer.
3. Visit the U3A office in Walters Street during office hours (9:30 till noon weekdays).
4. Join the queues on Enrolment Day.

For members who are comfortable with computers and the internet, another option may soon be available. We are considering accepting fees by Bank Transfer or EFT. More on this later. ■

Photo top left: Tin (our hostess) with Han and Aung;

Photos from left: Happy U3A members who have just enjoyed a wonderful banquet.



## New premises gets the “Thumbs up”!

Despite some teething problems, the set-up of the new premises and unplanned move to bigger premises both proceeded well. Some initial problems are now overcome.

There are now three toilets available to us, all keyed to the building ‘master’ available from course facilitators and committee executive. The new venue has three separate rooms for courses and activities. The largest room was a bonus but will host no courses this term while renovations take place.

The location of the kitchen will be a barrier to the use of the largest room and we will work to isolate it with a wall and

door relocation. Other urgent matters will be air conditioning, security, building a set of steps to replace the ramp at the main entrance and setting up the office.

Access to the new site may seem confusing. The door nearest the main gate was an “emergency exit” when it was a school. It accesses only one room and there is no easy through passage to other rooms. The two main entries are the one with a short but steep ramp and one near the toilet with a gently sloping entry.

The project was completed \$5,000+ under budget. We will apply the same due diligence to all future expenditure.

— Brian Tolagson

## U3As in Australia

Following are extracts from a research study, *U3As in Australia and New Zealand 2008: The Successful Ageing Organisations*. The whole study can now be downloaded from the U3A Online homepage [www.u3aonline.org.au](http://www.u3aonline.org.au)

This study, the largest undertaken of U3As in Australia, was devised and carried out by a team of U3A researchers and leaders and funded by U3A Online.

### Key findings:

- A detailed audit of all volunteer activities was carried out for each U3A. This showed that in 2008 volunteer tutors (course leaders) collectively contributed more than 667,000 hours towards their U3A courses and activities. Administrators and other volunteers contributed 192,000 hours. A notional dollar value of \$20 an hour was ascribed to the activities to give a conservative value for Australian U3A voluntarism in 2008 of more than \$21 million.
- The 205 U3A groups in Australia range in size from a low of 24 members to a high of 5500 members (Sydney U3A). The largest free standing U3A is U3A ACT with 3700 members. Nine groups have 1000 or more members. The median U3A Australian membership number is 414. Australian U3As do not appear to limit membership numbers.

- The number of males participating has increased substantially from earlier findings. The female/male ratio is now 3:1.
- Finding suitable low cost accommodation remains the most pressing problem facing U3As.
- Providing intellectually stimulating opportunities and social networking are seen as the two major accomplishments of U3As. They strongly support the continuation of a *laissez faire* approach to teaching and learning in which course leaders come from any walk in life and teach in their preferred style. Any course that broadly fits with the U3A philosophy is acceptable. The three most sought after course areas are computing, history and languages. Exercise courses rate highly.
- The success or failure of a U3A group is strongly related to the skills and energy of its leadership. The overwhelming majority of U3A office bearers come from highly skilled/credentialed backgrounds. ■



## Letters to the Editor

### Appreciating Conni

This morning U3A members were very fortunate to have Conni back teaching Tai Chi. This is a big, happy group, and it's pretty obvious to each of us that Conni has heaps of patience, years of previous experience and dedication to this ancient martial arts system. For years I've been yearning for a Tai Chi teacher to come forward; now Conni has appeared, on a free day for me...and all for the cost of \$1 per class. Wow!

*Yours faithfully, Metta*

### A wonderful find...

What a wonderful “find” U3A has in our Membership Secretary – Bob Gerdes! Each time I need to ring Bob to search back in his records, day or night, to find me an old/previous Member number, he's on it! There's no “too hard basket, I haven't got time, couldn't care less, or go away” attitude. Bob's answer is “If I can't find the number straight away, Metta, I'll get back to you later or tomorrow and leave a message on your phone.” This makes my job at U3A as a volunteer Yoga teacher much, much easier.

*Yours faithfully, Metta*



*Members of the “Learning Circle” at their Christmas party cruising the Hastings River, followed by a lovely lunch at Sails.*



*Left & above: Members of the “Magic of Music” group enjoying a cuppa.*



Beryl Klumpp (Adult Learning Circle) on her 88th birthday holding 23 day old Jackson, grandson of Margaret Sutton, Course Convenor at a Circle get-together in November

**More photos from the Aung Mingala Farm outing**



**U3A office hours**  
**9.30am – 12 noon**  
**Monday – Friday**  
**Phone 6584 3676**

**Web site**  
**Reminder**  
 Please remember to check the U3A web site [www.pmhu3a.org.au](http://www.pmhu3a.org.au) regularly for any new notices or changes

If undelivered return to:  
**Port Macquarie Hastings U3A Inc**  
**PO Box 1210**  
**Port Macquarie**  
**NSW 2444**

**SURFACE MAIL**

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**ENROLMENT DAY** – 20 April 2010 1.30 – 2.30pm at the new U3A premises on Warlters Street (site of the old St Josephs High School), Port Macquarie.

**NAME BADGES** – Always wear your name badge when attending classes and U3A activities. Write your contact number on the back of your badge in case of emergency.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS** – Contact the Secretary or Membership Secretary if you move house and/or change your email address.

**NEWSLETTER** contributions are welcome – We reserve the right to edit any material submitted for publication. Copyright of all original material remains with the author.

**PHOTOGRAPHS AND PRIVACY** – If you object to your photograph appearing in the on-line gallery (or

**BYRNES & COX**  
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**Tony Cox**  
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 Port Macquarie NSW 2444  
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**Email: [tony.cox@byrnes-cox.com.au](mailto:tony.cox@byrnes-cox.com.au)**  
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in our Newsletter), please inform the Secretary in writing. We will always respect your privacy but must first be aware of your need.

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