

Cluster of Ideas at the U3A Cluster Meeting

On Saturday 7th August 2010 at 10am, 19 members of U3As in the Mid North Coast Area met in Port Macquarie to discuss how their U3A was functioning in their area; there were lots of ideas that Groups shared regarding types of Courses, number of Members, Fees, Social Activities, Term arrangements etc. This Cluster Meeting was organised by our President, Des Davis, who is now a Member of the NSW U3A Network committee.



Visitors were from U3As in Kempsey, Nambucca Valley, Manning Valley/Taree, Forster Tuncurry and Coffs Harbour.

Some of the interesting Courses running at Kempsey are "To Canterbury with Chaucer", Book Club, Line Dancing, Narrative Writing, Mahjong, Beading, Marbelling on Fabric and Paper, Free Arm Machine Embroidery, Family History to name a few; so perhaps one of our Members would be happy to run one of the above Courses for us????!!

Another good idea from the Cluster Day, is to do a Course such as "Celebrate Port Macquarie" where the subject matter would include photographs of the area, along with poetry about the area or a good story! Think on this... Nambucca had "Wine Appreciation" and Coffs Harbour had "Winners and Losers in Australian History". One U3A had a blue polo shirt printed with "Class Leader" for Enrolment Days!!!

The day concluded at 3pm with all in agreement that it had been a friendly, fruitful, fact-finding day. Another Cluster Meeting will be held in March next year.

— Delwyn Hatton, Publicity Officer. (Photo by Sue Clifford.) ■

Tuesday Afternoon at the Centre

Four excellent presentations will conclude the first term of TAAC (Tuesday Afternoon at the Centre). These events are free this term and are a chance to experience something different and have an afternoon tea with friends.

Tuesday August 24th @ 2.00pm

Brian Nicoll is a dedicated collector; in fact for years he had a shop in Port Macquarie trading in coins and banknotes (the shop is still going but with a different proprietor). Brian believes banknotes are the best investment going and he will talk to us and answer questions about Australian banknotes past and present.

Tuesday August 31st @ 2.00pm

Do you want to go beyond the politicians' clichés about asylum seekers and find out why Professor Pat McGorry described detention centres as factories for producing mental illness? You are invited to discuss the issues with **Anne-Marie Farrelly** who worked as a psychologist in Woomera, Curtin and Baxter.

Tuesday September 7th @ 2.00pm

Les Smith, Convenor, 'Investing in Shares'

'If only...'

It was Mothers' Day in 2010. A family gathering was taking place. Conversations were reflective in nature. None better than remembering loved ones and, in particular, the most loved of all – my MUM and her many lost opportunities, indeed sacrifices, for the sake of us 'kids'.

I recall vividly as a young boy the first time 'Ella Mabel' used the above words. It was below the escarpment which stands proudly above Wollongong – my birthplace. Of course, Mum was referring to the first releases of land responsible for the start of the urban sprawl as we know it today. Ask yourself: *'When was the first time I uttered the words – 'if only'?'*. Let us meet to share our mutual experiences and the impact they have had on our future direction in life.

30 August Mystery Tour

Monday August 30th our monthly excursion will be to a "Mystery" destination. **Cost is \$25** for the bus with lunch at your own expense. **Book now and pay at the U3A Centre office.** The bus will leave from the car park near the Marina at 9.15am. The bus will only hold 22 so get in early! ■

U3A Welfare Officer

Judy Baker has graciously agreed to take on the valuable job of Welfare Officer for the U3A; she will be ably assisted by Maggie Smith. Please ring the U3A Centre office on 6584-3676 to advise of members needing transport to or from courses, in hospital or no longer able to attend courses. ■

Presentation at Fishing Club AGM

Robyn and Brian represented us at the RAGM of Hastings Fly Fishers where we received a certificate of "thank you" for the use of our premises for their fly tying nights. Two of their committee run the fly tying course at the U3A Centre on Tuesday mornings. ■

Tuesday September 14th @ 2.00pm U3A's Got Talent!

Performances by U3A members in a variety of forms – music, dance, drama, comedy. More performers needed. Can you sing, play an instrument, recite a poem, tell a story, dance any style, act a scene? Leave your name and number at the office, ring Des on 65839105 or email desfaye76@gmail.com.

The first 4 weeks of the term, we had very interesting sessions including a workshop by U3A members shown below. ■



Clockwise: Frank Jennings (Prime Ministers), Des Davis (Roles in life & on stage), Kevin Pike (Estate planning etc), Brian Tolagson (Lake Innes).

Increase in fees

To all members, please note: We reluctantly advise members that from Term 4 there will be an increase to course registration fees. Full details will be included in the Term 4 newsletter and Course Brochure. It was a very considered decision by the committee and not taken lightly. ■

Rob Oakeshott Newsletter

Photos were taken of the Geography class at the U3A Centre for a feature in Rob's August newsletter. Publicity for the U3A with this reach is otherwise very expensive. We are grateful to Rob for his continuing patronage, publicity and support. ■

Vale Capt William (Bill) Shaw (5/11/1925 – 31/5/2010)

With deep regret we report the recent passing of Capt William (Bill) Shaw after a brief illness. Bill was a valued member of several U3A courses from 2007. For his wisdom, knowledge and compassion we will all miss him. — *Brian Tolagson*

Vale Mary Enticott (1/1/1925 – 7/8/2010)

Mary Enticott was a valued and popular member of our U3A. Mary, in her 80s, endeared herself to others in the many and varied courses she attended over several years. Mary was laid to rest at a graveside service at the Wauchope Cemetery the 11th of August 2010. With remembrance to a lovely lady. — *Del Hatton*

Basic Mobile Phones Course

Date: Thursday 23rd Sept

Time: 9.45 AM–12 noon.

Venue: Port Macquarie Library, Meeting Room.

Course: Basic Mobile Phones Course (please bring your mobile).

Demonstrators: Leon and team from Telstra & invitation by the Port Macquarie Seniors Computer Group.

Cost: \$5.00/person (money taken on the day). Morning tea provided.

Contact: Peggy 6559-7439; limited places available. ■

U3A OFFICE HOURS

9.30am – 12 noon

Monday – Friday

Phone: 6584-3676

Web site: www.pmhu3a.org.au

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NEXT ENROLMENT DAY – Tuesday the 12th October 2010, 1.30 – 2.30pm at the U3A Centre, Warlters Street.

LATE ENROLMENT up to 3 weeks after the start of a course are welcome in many courses. You **MUST** contact the Course Convenor first to ascertain if additional members are being accepted.

For late enrolment, you pay only for the rest of the term. Pay at the office or post your remittance to the Treasurer with a covering note and initial the attendance form to show you have paid. If less than \$5 is owed, postage stamps will be accepted as payment. Names cannot be entered on the Attendance Sheet unless accommodation fees have been paid. Money **CANNOT** be paid to the Course Convenor during the term.

NAME BADGES – ALWAYS wear your name badge when attending classes and U3A activities. Write your emergency contact details on the back of your badge.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR EMAIL – Please inform the Office on 6584 3676 if you move house or change your email address.

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

PHOTOGRAPHS AND PRIVACY – If you have an objection to having your photograph or name 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 must first be aware of your need.

DISCLAIMER – Opinions expressed here or in PMHU3A activities are not necessarily those of PMHU3A or its officers. PMHU3A accepts no responsibility for statements or opinions expressed. PMHU3A offers courses that provide general information for its members. PMHU3A does not warrant that such information is true and correct.