

ENROLMENT DATES TERM 3 2015

AT LAURIETON

Monday 20 July
10.30am – 12 noon

Laurieton United Services Club

AT WAUCHOPE

Monday 20 July
10.00am – 11.00am

Wauchope Library

AT PORT MACQUARIE

Monday 20 – Friday 24 July
9.30am – 3.30pm daily

You **MUST** be a **MEMBER OF PMHU3A** to enrol in a course. **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORMS** may be obtained from the office or downloaded from the website, or you can apply online. Half-year membership at \$25 is available from July 1st.

Please **WEAR YOUR BADGE** when attending an enrolment centre. Collect a **COURSE BOOKING FORM**, fill in your **MEMBERSHIP DETAILS** and **TICK THE COURSES** you wish to join. The **COURSE BOOKING FORM** can also be downloaded from the website.

You may enrol and pay for courses by:

- **IN PERSON** at the **Office** with your Course Booking Form and cash or cheque.
- **ON-LINE:** at www.pmhu3a.org.au and then by bank transfer.
- **POST:** Enclose cheque with your Course Booking Form to:
Port Macquarie Hastings U3A Inc.
PO Box 1210
Port Macquarie 2444

We have NO credit card facilities.

Office Location:

The U3A Centre
2 Lochinvar Place
Port Macquarie 2444

Phone No: 6584 4192

Hours: 9.30am – 3.30pm

Website: www.pmhu3a.org.au

From the Vice-president...

With president Kevin Pike away in the warmer climes of Europe the task of providing this column has fallen to me. Fortunately, prior to his departure Kevin saw through most of the matters I'll be reporting here.

Since the last newsletter it's been a busy time for members, beginning with several functions during the four week break in April. A film show and sausage sizzle in the first week was followed by two events in the second. On the Monday we were favoured with a visit from former deputy prime minister Tim Fischer who presented a very entertaining lecture on General John Monash. It was great to have Tim for our Eminent Speaker program and pleasing to have so many people there to hear him.

Hot on the heels of Tim's talk came a rail trip from Wauchope to Kendall and return on the 'Tin Hare', an event enjoyed by close to forty members. The following week a similar number came to the centre for our ANZAC Commemoration, and the last function was another film show and sausage sizzle. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the various events, especially Jacqui Everett and her team for the excellent organisation.

On 8 May Les King from the SES gave a talk and demonstration on fire safety and evacuation procedures. It was staged principally for office staff and conveners who will take the lead if ever we're unfortunate enough to have a fire.

Term 2 saw 81 courses on offer and 54 conveners running them. At the end of May we had 743 members, 12 more than at the same time last year. We are very fortunate to have so many conveners but there's always room for more so please think about it. Greater variety in our courses ensures that we continue to move forward and not allow any staleness to creep in. Of course that doesn't mean that we should drop any of our old favourites. There's always a solid demand for those as well as for new ones.

You'll be pleased to know that we're

continuing to improve the centre's facilities. A roof is to be erected over the pergola on the northern side of the courtyard to give protection from the weather. We also intend to have a shade sail on the eastern side, complementing those on the western side which were made possible by a very generous donation from Sue and Andrew Moll.

However, the main change is something you can't see – over 1.6 kilometres of ethernet cabling running through the roof and wall spaces to provide us with a stable and reliable computer network. This has been planned from the outset but because of the cost it was held back until now. We've also upgraded the WiFi system to eliminate the black spots. These improvements have been made possible by the success of last year's fundraising efforts and I'd again like to thank you all for your generosity.

Looking forward we've got a great program for term 3, more than 80 courses. We also have a special celebration to mark our 10th anniversary. In 2005 Hastings Valley U3A, as we were then called, ran its first courses, eleven of them, for its 85 members. Since then our membership has increased almost ten fold and we are now regularly running almost eight times as many courses, most of them on our very own premises. It's certainly something worth celebrating and we hope as many of you as possible will come along on 11 September and join in.

Finally, on a related note, the changes that have occurred over the past ten years made it an appropriate time to look at our constitution and see whether it still served our purposes. As mentioned in the last newsletter the entire document has been reviewed, updated and put out for comment. The next move will be to consider formally whether or not to adopt the new constitution and a special general meeting is to be held on 14 August for that purpose. The meeting notice, together with the motion to be put to the meeting, appears elsewhere in the newsletter and we hope for a good attendance.

Tony Dawson, Vice-president ■

Eminent Speaker – Tim Fischer

It was a great privilege to welcome the former deputy prime minister and leader of the National Party, the Hon. Tim Fischer, to our centre on 13 April. Tim, two of whose



many interests are railway history and military history, was in the district for the Centenary of Rail celebrations at Wauchope but graciously agreed to set aside an afternoon to speak to us about General John Monash, the subject of his latest book *Maestro John Monash: Australia's Greatest Civilian General*.

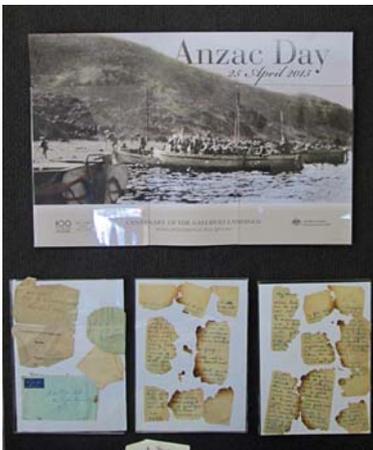
Some seventy people, including members of the Rotary Club of Port Macquarie West and of the Port Macquarie Historical Society, were in the Frank Jennings Room to enjoy a captivating presentation about a man who stepped up from civilian life as an engineer to play a vital role in the Great War and deserves to be much better known than he is.

It was a virtuoso performance from the speaker who kindly presented us with a copy of his book and auctioned another signed copy to raise money for charity. He also entertained us further with a brief talk about his experiences as an ambassador to the Vatican, and afterwards joined us for afternoon tea before leaving for Wauchope.

ANZAC Commemoration

Sincere thanks to those who organised and contributed to the ANZAC commemoration held at the centre on 24 April. A varied and well balanced program made it a very special event for the forty or so members who attended.

The program opened with an Acknowledgement of Country and the National Anthem, after which a video of Lee Kernaghan's 'Spirit of the Anzacs' was played. This was followed by a very interesting illustrated talk by Harry Williams about Gallipoli as it was in 1915 and how it is today.



A Digger's Letter

Caroline Begbie came to the lectern to read some letters sent home by men on the front and also read the moving words attributed to Atatürk embracing the fallen Anzacs as Turkey's sons. Tony Dawson told us a little about long-serving Mayor of Port Macquarie, Alban Charles Elliot, who was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry during the Great War and was instrumental in establishing the Port Macquarie branch of the RSL.

Bessie Jennings then read two moving poems of hers, one of which is to be published in an anthology later this year, after which there was a change of pace as we burst into a magnificent rendition of some First World War songs accompanied by Kevin Atkins on the piano. The program ended with Caroline Begbie reading the Ode and Michael Richardson playing The Last Post and Reveille.

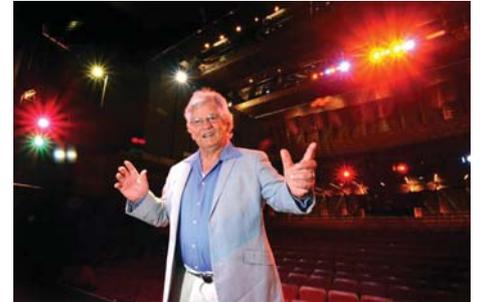


Anzac biscuits, damper and tea

In the foyer outside the Frank Jennings Room people lingered over a fascinating display of memorabilia, loaned by members for the occasion. We then made our way into the courtyard for an afternoon tea of what else but Anzac biscuits, damper and Cockies' Joy (golden syrup), bringing to an end what had been an entertaining and respectful commemoration for the centenary of Gallipoli.

Congratulations to James Hannah OAM

We are delighted to record that James Hannah, the Honorary Conductor and Musical Director of U3A's Laurieton Voices Choir since 2010, was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the recent Queens Birthday Honours List.

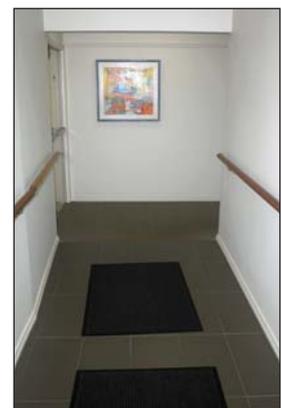


James Hannah (photo: Port News)

James was recognised for his service to community music on the Mid-North Coast. During his long and distinguished career he has served as musical director at Sydney Grammar School, McDonald College, The Players Theatre and Sinfonia Mid-North Coast. We offer him our hearty congratulations on a well-deserved award.

Call for Photographs

A few weeks ago we put out a call for photos to illustrate how far we've come over the last ten years. The intention is to create some kind of display to be mounted on the walls of the entrance corridor. The corridor has been referred to by some as 'the shooting gallery' (the fairground type not the one in Kings Cross!). Perhaps this



Not so 'entrancing'

is a little unkind but it makes the point that the entrance could be rendered more attractive and welcoming both for members and visitors.

So if you have some photos, especially of the various venues we've used prior to our move into the new centre, please let us know and we'll arrange to make copies.

Important Notice - Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting of Members of Port Macquarie Hastings U3A Inc. will be held at the PMHU3A Centre, 2 Lochinvar Place, Port Macquarie on 14 August 2015 commencing at 3.30pm in the Frank Jennings Room (room 10). The purpose of the meeting is to consider and vote on the adoption of a new Constitution, a decision that requires a Special Resolution of the Association. The proposed Constitution may be viewed and downloaded from the PMHU3A website. A printed copy is available for perusal at the office.

Agenda

1. Welcome to members
2. Apologies
3. Motion to be put as a Special Resolution:
“That the proposed new Constitution be adopted”
4. Close meeting

Under the rules pertaining to Special General Meetings no business other than that shown in the agenda may be conducted.

Sue Moll, Secretary

Room 10 Hearing Loop

One of the special facilities in Room 10 is a ‘hearing loop’. It was installed for the benefit of members who, because of hearing impairment, use aids of some sort. This kind of facility is often used in spaces such as lecture halls and concert halls and its availability is indicated by the icon shown here.



The system consists of a loop of cable which generates a magnetic field that can be picked up by telecoil-compatible hearing aids (with a T-switch), Cochlear Implants, or specialised hand-held hearing loop receivers. It allows the sound source of interest to be transmitted to the hearing-impaired listener clearly and free of other distracting noise.

Recently the daughter of one of our members, Frank Catt, let us know that her father was having difficulty hearing in a class held in room 10 even though he was wearing hearing aids. It transpired that the aids were not telecoil-compatible so he had a T-Switch fitted and was able to hear very clearly the next time. Others have reported the same benefit and the freedom it gives them to join in discussions.

It is important to remember that the system only functions when the microphone, computer or DVD player is being used. Under those conditions class members who wear hearing aids with a T-Switch or that have been programmed to pick up the signal from a hearing loop will find sound levels and quality much improved. Conveners should be aware of this and encourage presenters to use a microphone. That way, no one misses out on what’s being said and we can all enjoy the education and entertainment on offer.

Convener Support Team

Your IT team has been looking at how to deal with problems that classes sometimes face in getting the equipment to work properly. We now think we have a solution by forming a Convener Support team.

The team plans to check that all the equipment is working before your class starts, and will then be “on call” to deal directly with problems.



Warren Scott



David Burr



Ray Evans



David Naldrett

Many problems that arise have been encountered before and most have a simple solution. We all work constantly to prevent problems occurring, but equipment can fail, and there is always human error.

So, if there’s a problem please don’t try to sort it out yourself. Tell the office crew who might have a quick solution or will know who to call. They will also ensure that the problem is properly recorded so that we can fix it and prevent it occurring again. Please don’t call the IT team—Nick, Mike or Ken—directly.

No one wants classes to be delayed so conveners and class members can help by following the correct procedure.

Nick Ogbourne, IT Manager ■

What’s On!

ENROLMENT DATES – TERM 3 2015:
 See page 1.

PMHU3A TERM DATES 2015

TERM 3: 27 Jul – 18 Sep
TERM 4: 19 Oct – 11 Dec

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 14 August 2015 at 3.30pm

Room 10, PMHU3A Centre

(see notice on left)

Meeting to be followed by a barbecue in the courtyard — Cost \$10

10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Friday 11 September, 6.00 for 6.30pm

Tenison Woods Centre

(drink on arrival, 2 course meal & entertainment — cost TBA)

U3A NSW Network Conference

Our association was well represented at the network conference held in Mittagong in April. Des & Faye Davis, Sue & Andrew Moll, Lorraine Beukers and Tony Dawson were there to hear some very interesting presentations, join various workshops, and share ideas with other delegates.

The program opened with a meeting of large U3As and, later, a reception at the Bradman Museum in Bowral.

The main day of the conference kicked off with the Keynote Speaker, Hugh Mackay, speaking about *‘The Art of Belonging’*, the title of his latest book and the theme of the conference. Workshops took us up to lunch after which we were entertained by The Highland Buskers. In the afternoon we heard a most stimulating talk by Tony Whittingham entitled *‘Third Age Learning in the Digital World’*. Then more workshops before the conference dinner that evening.

The AGM was held on the last morning and the conference ended with a presentation on insurance and, for some delegates, an excursion to Joadja, an old mining town.

Altogether, a very worthwhile conference.



Des, Lorraine, Sue, Andrew and Tony



Betty, Eleanor, Mike, Wendy, and Eileen



Sara Parker



Bessie Jennings

Just for Fun

If you weren't one of the close to fifty people who joined in the 'Just for Fun' show on 20 June you missed a real treat. The show opened with 'Countdown', a hilarious award winning skit performed by two well-known local actors, Eileen Kerr and John Hinks, who had the audience in fits of laughter. They were followed by Sara Parker who sang several songs, including one entitled 'Practically Perfect.' With the omission of the qualifying adjective the title might equally well describe the performance of this very talented vocalist. Next up was Bessie Jennings, our brilliant bush poet, dressed for the occasion in patched hand-me-downs. Bessie's poems generally guarantee a chuckle and it was no different this time. After her came Eleanor Pinkerton who entertained us with some of her favourite Celtic songs. Eleanor has sung with rock bands and completed operatic training but Celtic songs remain her main love. The show wound up with Wendy and Mike Jamison performing an intimate mix of jazz, blues and country music, including some of their own compositions.

It was all immensely entertaining and many thanks to Betty Starr for organising the event, to Ken Churchill for looking after the sound equipment, to the office volunteers for issuing the tickets and providing afternoon tea, to the maintenance crew for setting things up, and to everyone who came along to make it such an enjoyable afternoon.

If undeliverable, return to:

Port Macquarie Hastings U3A Inc.
PO Box 1210
Port Macquarie NSW 2444

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POST**

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**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

PRIORITY

President
Kevin Pike 6583 7720
president@pmhu3a.org.au

Vice President
Tony Dawson 6584 7648
vicepresident@pmhu3a.org.au

Secretary
Sue Moll 6582 2785
honsec@pmhu3a.org.au

Treasurer
Lorraine Beukers 6584 6531
treasurer@pmhu3a.org.au

Course Coordinator
Maggie Wilson 6583 4114
courses@pmhu3a.org.au

Membership Secretary
Sue Moll 6582 2785
membership@pmhu3a.org.au

Newsletter Editor
Tony Dawson 6584 7648
newsletter@pmhu3a.org.au

Publisher
Sue Clifford 6582 0424
publications@pmhu3a.org.au

Office Administrator
Jenny Tucker 6582 0954
officeadmin@pmhu3a.org.au

Publicity Officer
Sue Moll 6582 2785
publicity@pmhu3a.org.au

Committee Member
Jacqui Everett 6583 5701
committee7@pmhu3a.org.au

Michael Rogers 6584 0039
comm3@pmhu3a.org.au
Colin Imer 0428 276 500
colimer@hotmail.com

Camden Haven Acting Coordinator
Maggie Wilson 6583 4114
courses@pmhu3a.org.au

Wauchope Coordinator
Beverly Izard
wauchope@pmhu3a.org.au

IT Manager
Nick Ogbourne 0418 139 156
itmanager@pmhu3a.org.au

Web Master
Andrew Moll 6582 2785
webmaster@pmhu3a.org.au

Committee (all members)
committee@pmhu3a.org.au

Port Macquarie Hastings U3A Inc.
2 Lochinvar Place
PO Box 1210
Port Macquarie NSW 2444
Phone: 6584 4192
Email: office@pmhu3a.org.au
Website: www.pmhu3a.org.au

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

Any member who does not have a name badge should contact the office.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR EMAIL – Please inform the Office on 6584 4192 or via email on office@pmhu3a.org.au if you move house or change your email address.

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

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