

ENROLMENT DATES TERM 3 2017

AT LAURIETON

Monday 17 July
10.30am – 12 noon

Laurieton United Services Club

AT PORT MACQUARIE

Monday 17 – Friday 21 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 to:
Account Name: PMHU3A Inc
BSB: 721 – 000
Account No: 75592
- **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 President...

Overall, things went smoothly in term 2 thanks to the hard work of our volunteers who undertake a multitude of tasks to keep the wheels oiled and turning. There were one or two glitches but that's to be expected in a large organisation such as ours and, with the cooperation of members, they can generally be sorted out relatively easily. My thanks to everyone—conveners, office and IT teams, maintenance and grounds volunteers, social committee, management committee, and all other helpers—for their dedication to the association and for everything they do.

And yet...

we desperately need more volunteers to ease the load on those we already have. We face a potentially difficult situation later this year when Lorraine Beukers stands down after five years as treasurer, and our IT manager, Nick Ogbourne, steps back to make more time for other things in life. Nick has been with us from the beginning and his loss, together with Lorraine's, will leave us with significant challenges. Although some IT work will have to be contracted out we must do all we can to keep additional costs to a minimum. I invite any member who feels that he or she has the skills and experience to help with either of these positions to let me know so that we, together with Lorraine or Nick, can discuss what's involved.

The office too, requires more assistance so that current volunteers are not expected to do several shifts each week. Ideally, no one should be asked to do more than half a day per week but to reach that goal we need more members to step forward.

I can guarantee that giving a little of

Enrol Online

You may enrol in courses online from 00.00 hours on 17 July (midnight on 16 July). Just go to our website at www.pmhu3a.org.au and log in with your username and password. You will find the course program there together with the online booking form and payment information.

Members are encouraged to use this easy and convenient service.

your time to help our association is very rewarding. It keeps you engaged in our community, offers opportunities for learning something new as well as applying existing skills, and brings new friendships — all the things that U3A stands for. I encourage all members to think about this and let us know if you're prepared to give us an hour or two each week. I and other members of the management committee are always happy to sit down with you and talk about how you might help.

Looking ahead

Over the second half of the year members will see some changes around the centre. We were recently awarded a grant by the Holiday Coast Credit Union to go towards the installation of solar panels and hope to commence that project soon. Other changes include new floor tiling in the northern corridor to replace the stained and spattered carpet near the coffee station. And for presentations in room 10 we hope to have a new lectern which incorporates the computer and monitor so that speakers have the equipment at their fingertips rather than at their backs.

All in all, there's much to look forward to, and I look forward to seeing you all again next term.

Tony Dawson, President PMHU3A ■

Course News

What a great term we've had. Lots of choice with quality courses including 'old favourites' and some new ones. During term 2, we also asked your opinion about which courses you would like to see and about how the day is organised.

The course survey showed members were keen to attend the courses suggested BUT no one volunteered to convene any of those courses. So, if we are to offer Italian, Mahjong, and a Book Club at Port, we need members to convene them.

The three sessions per day proposal brought mixed reactions, as you would expect. The committee decided not to fully implement that proposal in term 3 but noted that it is probably only a matter of time before we need to do so. Some of our Monday conveners have 'bitten the bullet' and changed their times to

allow more flexibility for bigger classes and to ease parking at peak times.

Several courses were cancelled in term 2 owing to insufficient enrolments. Perhaps we are approaching saturation point – so many courses, so little time! Or perhaps some members escaped on overseas holidays. There were also some conveners who were not well enough to run their courses. Remember, all conveners are volunteers and need flexibility to attend to the other parts of their lives beyond U3A.

Some courses will not be offered in term 3 for various reasons. After a number of years we say thank you to Gillian Scott for convening Botany in the Garden, and Audrey Edwards for Scrabble (although the course will continue with new conveners). Sue Whitby's popular Monday computing courses are also taking a holiday for this

term. Florence Gibbons who convened Magic of Movies has moved away and Bob Jeffrey has stepped in to take that course. Frank Urban will be convening Art and Culture. New courses include The Crusades, Classical Greece, Yoga for Blokes (Broga), Earth Systems Science, Microsoft Laptops, and Electricity, Now and in the Future.

Pam Hudson, one of our committee members is also keen to see us have a Science Forum. As she says, there are a number of members with a science background who could do a single presentation in their area of expertise or interest. The Forum could be for one day or a series of presentations over the term. This idea could be developed into other forums on health, legal issues, finances etc. Look out for an email during term 3 to gauge interest from possible conveners for a Science Forum in term 4.

Karen Roberts, Course Coordinator ■

HCCU Community Partnership Grant

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded a \$3500 Community Partnership Grant from the Holiday Coast Credit Union, the money to be put towards the installation of rooftop solar PV panels at our centre. Our thanks to Grants Officer Mike Rogers for preparing the submission and following through with it. Tony Dawson and Lorraine Beukers attended the award ceremony at Wauchope to receive the cheque from Neville Parsons, HCCU's Chief Executive Officer.

The new system is expected to generate up to 25kW/day during summer and perhaps 15kW/day during winter. Since most of our power usage occurs during the day it will significantly decrease our reliance on the grid and result in a considerable reduction in our electricity bill. The total cost of the installation, which has been approved in principle by St Agnes Parish from whom we lease the centre, will be about \$7000, the balance to be furnished though our Future Fund. The pay back period for our contribution is



calculated to be around three years and the subsequent savings to our operating costs are expected to amount to more than \$1000 per year.

Apart from the practical and financial benefits, the system will serve as an illustration of our association's commitment to the environment and to a sustainable future for our children and grandchildren. ■

Ninety-nine Not Out

Congratulations to George Wallens who recently celebrated his 99th birthday. George is long time member and can often be found at the U3A Centre where he participates in various classes. Still learning after all those years George is a great role model for us all ■



Norfolk Island Visit

A month or two ago we let members know that Norfolk Island U3A had extended an invitation to other U3A associations to visit the island later this year. Expressions of interest were invited and a few have been received. No decision has yet been made but Lorraine Beukers is currently looking into possible arrangements. There is still time to register your interest by contacting Lorraine on 6584 6531 or at treasurer@pmhu3a.org.au ■

Let Us Entertain You

Around a hundred members and friends came to the Mackillop College hall on 3 June to enjoy an afternoon's entertainment of instrumental music, song, dance, poetry and drama. The program was organised by the indomitable Betty Starr in association with our Social Committee, and Mike Pepperday acted as compère.

The program got off to a melodious start with the Sublime Chimes, a group



of handbell ringers. It was fascinating to watch the group, under the direction of Ruth Bergin, as they performed 'Frère Jacques' and Mendelssohn's 'Wedding March', donning appropriate headgear for each number. They were followed by U3A's great musical duo, Dave Smith and Carol Baker,



singing a medley of songs including old favourites such as 'The Sound of Silence' and 'Love Potion No. 9'.

Bessie Jennings, poet extraordinaire, then recited two poems, one a story of a unique recipe for damper, and the other some remedies for a certain kind of dampness. Tears of laughter added to the moisture in the air, but things dried out when Christine Battisson and U3A's multicultural dance performance group, in traditional dress, treated us to two lively Romanian dances.



After the interval with afternoon tea including scones with jam and cream and an opportunity to stretch our legs, we returned to our seats for the second half of the concert. The multicultural dancers returned to the stage, this time performing two Greek dances.

'At Last', the duo of Wendy and Mike Jamison were next, Wendy, giving an



upbeat rendition of 'I've got you under my skin' before Mike sang 'Sixteen Tons', the old Johnny Cash song.

Bruce and Colleen Stewart soothed our souls with some peaceful guitar music



but just as we were relaxing again, up popped the Z Chords with Christina Joy for a rip-roaring succession of



songs accompanied by a lot of ukuleles and a harmonica.

The program ended with a one-act play presented by members of our Stage Fun

What's On!

ENROLMENT DATES – TERM 3 2017
See page 1.

REMAINING TERM DATES 2017

TERM 3: 24 Jul – 15 Sep

TERM 4: 16 Oct – 8 Dec

RADIO BROADCAST - 13 July 2017

Tune into Hastings Community Radio 2WAY FM (103.9) at 10.30am Thursday 13 July to hear Karen Roberts, our Course Coordinator, interviewed on 'Tropical Tracks'. She'll be speaking about her life, including her involvement in U3A, and have some of her favourite music played.

course convened by Joan Lane. It was a play in which actors were auditioning



for parts in another play and had all the elements of melodrama. But our suspicions proved unfounded and it was a fitting finale to a great concert.

Hello Koalas Festival

The Hello Koalas Festival and conference held recently in Port Macquarie included a temporary exhibition of textile art featuring koalas.



The art works were created by members of our U3A Textile Art class run by Jill Williams and were displayed at the Port Macquarie Museum

in Clarence Street where they were warmly admired.

Although the exhibit has since been taken down Jill's original koala, 'Con', still sits on the other side of Clarence Street in the grounds of the Old Court House. If you've never seen him, go down and say "Hello". ■



Victorian Bike Ride

Recently eleven members of the Cycle the Hastings group travelled to Victoria to ride several of the Rail Trails there.

Our adventure began in Orbost in East Gippsland where we were met by Liz, our tour organiser. She drove a 12-seater van and towed a purpose built trailer equipped to carry 18 bikes which we helped her to load and unload. It had a clever system for holding the bikes so the job became quite quick and easy.

On day one Liz drove us to the far end of our ride and over the next six days we cycled our way back to Orbost via a series of rail trails.

The first was the Great Southern Rail Trail. The riding surface was smoother than most roads around the Hastings and it was a lovely start to our six days of riding. Rail Trails are created on disused small gauge railway lines and are maintained by the Victorian Government and local authorities. Signs along the way provide interesting historical information.

We cycled the Great Southern Rail Trail, the Grand Ridge Rail Trail, the Bass Coast Rail Trail, the Gippsland Rail Trail and the East Gippsland Rail Trail, a total of 300km with no cars to contend with. Apart from one wet day and wind on the Bass Coast Trail, the



riding conditions very good. It is a pity that New South Wales has not created similar trails, although the distances between towns would be greater.

We all returned unscathed and as our ages range from 57 to 75 we were quite proud of ourselves for completing the distance.

Virginia Oakley ■

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PO Box 1210
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PMHU3A Newsletter

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PRIORITY

Patron – Rob Oakeshott

President

Tony Dawson 6584 7648
president@pmhu3a.org.au

Vice President

Jacqui Everett 6583 5701
vicepresident@pmhu3a.org.au

Secretary

Sue Moll 6582 2785
honsec@pmhu3a.org.au

Treasurer

Lorraine Beukers 6584 6531
treasurer@pmhu3a.org.au

Course Coordinator

Karen Roberts 6582 0573
coursecoordinator@pmhu3a.org.au

Office Administrator

Jenny Tucker 0448 920 954
officeadministrator@pmhu3a.org.au

Newsletter Editor

Tony Dawson 6584 7648
newsletter@pmhu3a.org.au

Grants Officer

Michael Rogers 6584 0039
grantsofficer@pmhu3a.org.au

Catering Officer

Jacqui Everett 6583 5701
services@pmhu3a.org.au

Committee Members

David Burr 6583 1814
committee00@pmhu3a.org.au

John Jones 6584 1242
committee08@pmhu3a.org.au

Pamela Hudson 0458 770 060
committee09@pmhu3a.org.au

Publicity Officer

Rita Spencer 6582 2086
publicity@pmhu3a.org.au

Camden Haven Coordinator

vacant

Wauchope Coordinator

Beverley Izzard
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.

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