

## TERM DATES 2020

**3 February – 27 March**  
**27 April – 19 June**  
**20 July – 11 September**  
**12 October – 4 December**

Prior to the commencement of Term 1 the Centre will be open for enrolments and the registration of new members from Tuesday 28 January to Friday 31 January 2020 inclusive. See page 3 for Information on membership renewals. Full enrolment details will appear in the January newsletter.

### Summer Closure

Following the Christmas Party on Friday 6 December the U3A Centre will be closed and will not re-open until 28 January 2020.

### Management Committee 2019 – 2020

#### Office Bearers:

President: Lorraine Beukers  
 Vice President: Reg Millar  
 Secretary: Sue Moll  
 Treasurer: Jane Stevenson

#### Committee Members:

Michael Bowden  
 Tony Dawson  
 Gail Mendoza  
 Karen Roberts  
 Michael Rogers

**Auditor:** David Johnson

**Public Officer:** Sue Moll

#### Office Location:

The U3A Centre  
 Lochinvar Place  
 Port Macquarie 2444

**Phone No:** 6584 4192

**Hours:** 9.30am – 3.30pm

**Website:** [www.pmhu3a.org.au](http://www.pmhu3a.org.au)

## From the President...

This term is drawing to a close and it has been a time of highs and lows. Sadly our oldest and well-loved member, George Wallens, passed away on 19 October aged 101½ years. George liked to emphasise these extra months and there was a strong representation of U3A members at his memorial service at the Innes Gardens Memorial Park on 29 October. Vale George, we will miss you.

Our U3A Dancers continue to entertain at the Glasshouse free Friday lunchtime concerts accompanied by musicians Michael Spooner and Dave Smith.

The U3A Laurieton Voices community concerts are popular with locals and recently our State MP Leslie Williams formally recognised in Parliament the contributions the choir has made to community organisations. This is now recorded in Hansard and a copy has been presented to U3A on behalf of the choir and its convener Sue Bartholomew. Congratulations to all the Laurieton Voices and their conductor Iain Pole.

The Melbourne Cup luncheon was enjoyed by over 40 of our members and was a wonderful relaxed afternoon. Thank you to all those involved, catering, sweeps, set up, clean up and of course our barmen, to make the day a success.

On Saturday 9 November we were to host the U3A Network Regional meeting but this was cancelled due to the severe fires in the area. I sincerely hope none of our members have been unduly impacted by the fires or smoke and that all are safe and well.

I thank the many members who braved the horrendous fire conditions to attend the AGM. Your support is appreciated and I am very pleased to return as your

President for another year. There are two changes to the Committee this year, our new Treasurer Jane Stevenson and the return of Tony Dawson as Minute Secretary as well as his role of Newsletter Editor. I look forward to working with you all. Copies of the Annual Report are available on the website or ask for a copy at the office.

For those members who were unable to attend the AGM I would like to reiterate comments I made concerning our membership. Even though we have more than 900 members it is essential that we continue to attract new members. Port Macquarie is one of the fastest growing areas for retirees and we need to be of interest to them through our courses, social activities and, particularly, technology. Our conveners do a wonderful job but new conveners can bring new ideas while our IT people keep us up-to-date with technology. If you have the ideas, the skills and the time please consider becoming involved. The reward of seeing the enjoyment you bring to others is priceless. To secure our future we need to stay relevant, involved and supportive of all who commit so much to our U3A. It is not only “our U3A”, it is “your U3A” and something we can all be very proud of.

Our next function is the Christmas Party on Friday the 6th of December and I hope to see many of you there.

As we head towards the end of the year I take this opportunity to say thank you to members, conveners, committee, office, IT and all who do so much throughout the year. On behalf of the Committee and myself, I wish you a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year break and look forward to 2020.

Lorraine Beukers, President ■

**May the peace and joy of the Christmas season be with you all!**

## 2020 Volunteer Opportunity

Changes come to all of our lives (especially at these elevated ages) and we find that for next year we need a couple of extra team members.

This opportunity is with our **Convener Support Team (CST)** – those of us who like to serve our U3A effort by checking the IT equipment each day to ensure all is working normally, and by supporting our conveners in using the equipment and apps U3A has provided.

### What experience do I need to have?

Just be able to comfortably use a PC, and be familiar with using DVD players, USB sticks and TVs. And have an interest in learning something new.

### Time commitment?

After training, about one-half day per week, starting Term 1 in 2020.

### Rewards?

Seeing the gratitude in the face of a convener we have helped is priceless.

### What about helping people – what's that?

That is a key component of what we do: we support our conveners – new and experienced – with any problems they might have in using the equipment or running their presentations.

You will need to like helping people – this is not for folks who like to work alone.

### Do I get some training?

You sure will. Early in the New Year we will show you what you need to know, and you will get hands-on experience with the equipment. Then at the start of Term 1 we will support you as you take over a slot on our weekly roster.

### Can I talk to someone?

Yes – if you want to know more, please phone Ray Evans, Convener Support Team Organiser, on 0421 452 983, in the evenings best.

## Come on! Get involved in something worthwhile!

### We need YOU!

## Meet our new Treasurer

Jane Stevenson was born in Edinburgh but moved to Sydney with her family when she was nine years old. She was educated at SCEGGS Redlands school before attending Sydney University where she graduated in Pharmacy.

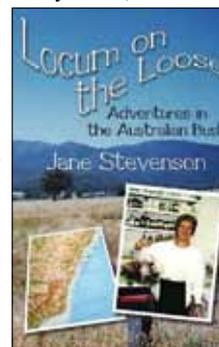


After raising her three children, Jane took to the bush, carrying out Pharmacy locum work in places like Cobar, Moree, Griffith and Dubbo. She recorded some of her experiences—frightful and delightful—in her book *Locum on the Loose : Adventures in the Australian Bush*, published in 2012. This was Jane's second book. Her first, *Get Well and Stay Well*, covered her special interest in nutrition, a subject on which she had been a guest lecturer at various Pharmacy conferences and seminars.

After six years as a country locum Jane moved to a property north of Gloucester. She became secretary and/or treasurer of various community art and environment groups, and for several years was treasurer of the Gloucester Tennis Club.

When Jane's feet again got itchy she moved to Port Macquarie, a place big enough for her to feel back in the swim of things yet small enough to get around easily. It's also about half-way between Sydney where her two sons and their families live, and Byron Bay where her daughter and her family live.

Jane currently works as a volunteer at Sea Acres Rainforest Centre and also teaches her hobby of Leadlight and Stained Glass in her home studio. She believes U3A offers a wonderful opportunity for everyone to learn more about their various interests and is looking forward to being our treasurer. ■



## Melbourne Cup Luncheon

Forty-four members and guests gathered at the Centre for one of our major social functions of the year. As the weather was cool and threatening (though not delivering) rain, the tables were set up in the reception and dining areas, adding to the intimacy of the occasion.

As members arrived they were greeted by Faye Lardner and Alvina Dark before moving on to the sweepstakes where our three 'bookies' gladly relieved them of their money. Next stop was the bar to be served a sparkling wine we're not allowed to call 'champagne'.

Glasses in hand, people settled around the tables and there was a hum of conversation as plates of nibbles were handed around.

Lunch was announced and a queue quickly formed at the food table where Jacqui Everett and her team served a delicious ham and chicken salad lunch.

With 3pm approaching people threaded their way to room 10 to watch the horses

and riders make their way to the starting gate. Soon they were away, jockeying for position and as they entered the final straight it was impossible to pick the winner. But it was *Vow and Declare* who got home by a nose from *Master of Reality* and *Prince of Arran* in a photo finish for second place, with *Il Paradiso* fourth. In a late controversial decision the finishing positions were changed but by that time all the sweeps had been decided and the money paid out, so it was too late to do anything. However, sweeps are always a matter of chance and we can only hope that those who missed out this time will enjoy better luck when they come back on the first Tuesday in November next year.

A big thankyou to everyone involved – too many to name individually but particularly those who prepared and served the food, set up the furniture and the TVs, and, not least, cleared everything away afterwards to leave the Centre neat and tidy. ■

## Annual General Meeting

The 2019 AGM was held on 8 November as bushfires raged along the Mid-North Coast and the U3A Centre was blanketed in thick orange smoke. It looked like the Gates of Hell had opened and AGM could well have meant Apocalyptic General Meeting.

However, inside the Centre all was calm and orderly as twenty-eight members assembled in Room 10 to receive the Annual Report and elect a new committee for 2019 – 2020. Also present as an observer was Laurene Mulcahy, President of U3A Network NSW. She had come up from the Lake Macquarie area to attend a regional forum of Mid-North Coast U3As scheduled to be held the following day but which had to be postponed owing to the fires and resultant road closures.

President Lorraine Beukers commenced procedures at 3.00pm, opening the meeting and welcoming members. Apologies were received and Sue Moll read the minutes of the previous meeting which were formally approved. Lorraine then presented the Annual Report, highlighting the principal points of interest. She was followed by outgoing treasurer Rodney Neasbey who presented the financial report. No significant matters were raised and the Annual Report was approved.

In the absence of our usual Returning Officer, David Johnson, Tony Dawson was invited to commence the election for office bearers and committee members for the coming year. Tony declared all positions vacant and proceeded to the nominations for President. Lorraine Beukers being the only nominee she was declared elected and resumed the chair to conduct the rest of the election. None of the positions was contested and all candidates were duly elected. A full list appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

The election over, Lorraine thanked members for their attendance and for their confidence in the committee, undertaking to continue working hard on their behalf.

The last items on the agenda were the appointment of the Honorary Auditor and Public Officer. David Johnson was re-appointed to the former position and Sue Moll to the latter. Lorraine then closed the meeting and at 3.30pm members made

their way out in near darkness as the fires continued to burn and blackened leaves fell from the skies to litter the ground. ■



*Courtyard Friday 8 November 2019.*



*Looking west over the U3A Centre.*

## Laurieton Voices U3A Choir

As mentioned in the President's message, the choir was recently recognised in a speech to Parliament by local MP Leslie Williams who saw its efforts in raising funds to support a host of charitable organisations as a wonderful display of thoughtfulness and kindness to those in need.

Mrs Williams presented the choir's coordinator, Sue Bartholomew, with a copy of the Parliamentary Hansard

record of the speech in which she also acknowledged U3A president Lorraine Beukers and made special mention of the contributions of soloist Betty Boyd, musical director Iain Pole, and pianist Patricia Frank.

The choir's next performance will be at a Legacy concert in the Laurieton United Services Club on 26 November, commencing at 12.30pm. Its annual Christmas Concert will take place in

## What's On!

### TERM DATES 2020

See page 1.

### U3A LAURIETON VOICES CHOIR

'JOY TO THE WORLD' Christmas Concert

Friday 6 December 2019

2.00pm

Laurieton School of Arts

Bold Street, Laurieton

Cost: \$5 donation includes

afternoon tea

Proceeds to 'Water to Farmers initiative'

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday 6 December 2019 \*

5.30pm

Garden Courtyard, PMHU3A Centre

Catered by XS Foods.

BYO drinks.

Cost \$27.50

Tickets available at the office.

\* Note change of date from previous newsletter.

## Membership Renewals

Membership renewals for 2020 are now open. The annual fee of \$40 is payable by 7 February 2020 after which an additional re-joining fee of \$5 will be due. Early payment would be appreciated.

The simplest way to renew your membership is via the web site. Log in with your username and password, go to 'Members' and click 'Renew'. You will then see a form with the information that is on file about you. Please check carefully that all details are correct, select your payment method and then click 'Apply'. You will receive an application number and payment instructions.

Alternatively, you may fill in a blank application form and return it to the office or post it, with your payment, to Port Macquarie Hastings U3A, PO Box 1210, Port Macquarie, 2444.

Payments can be made by cash, cheque or electronic funds transfer (EFT) through your bank, but we do not have credit or debit card facilities. If you pay by EFT please ensure that you put your name and application number in the recipient's reference box.

Banking Details: Account Name: PMHU3A Inc. BSB: 932 – 000 Account No: 500072357. ■

the Laurieton School of Arts at 2pm on 6 December (see What's On!), and Iain Pole's Christmas Carol evening will be held in the Laurieton Hall at 6pm on 14 December. ■

# Melbourne Cup Luncheon photos



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**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](mailto:office@pmhu3a.org.au) if you move house or change your email address.**

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