

ENROLMENT DATES TERM 4 2021

ONLINE

From 6.00am Monday 11 October

U3A CENTRE, PORT MACQUARIE

Monday 11 – Wednesday 13 October
9.30am – 3.30pm daily

You **MUST** be a **MEMBER OF PMHU3A** to enrol in a course. You can apply online to become a member or attend the office once it reopens on 11 August. Membership to the end of 2021 is still available at \$25 (including the \$5 joining fee).

Please **WEAR YOUR BADGE** when attending the enrolment centre. To book a course you can make an application online (providing your membership has already been paid and receipted) or you can attend the office or pay by cheque.

You may enrol and pay for courses by:

- **ON-LINE:** at www.pmhu3a.org.au and then by bank transfer to:
Account Name: PMHU3A Inc
BSB: 932 – 000
Account No: 500072357

Please ensure that you include your payment reference number in the recipient's advice box.

- **IN PERSON** at the Office with card, cash or cheque
- **POST:** Enclose cheque with your Course Booking Form to:
Port Macquarie Hastings U3A Inc.
PO Box 1210
Port Macquarie 2444

Office Location:

The U3A Centre
Building A – St Agnes Village
Lochinvar Place
Port Macquarie 2444

Phone No: 6584 4192

Hours: 9.30am – 3.30pm

Website: www.pmhu3a.org.au

From the President...

It is very pleasing to be able to say Welcome Back for Term 4. It was disappointing to have to cancel Term 3 just as we had started, as well as cancelling some planned social activities, but that is the way it is with COVID.

Many of our members have stayed in touch via interesting on line classes such as cryptic crosswords, playing '500' with three other class members, or visiting people on their own by the Bubble Buddy system. Other outdoor activities were able to continue at times. It is so important to keep in touch with family and friends of whom so many are missing so much.

The **good news** is that the Committee approved the suspension of course fees for Term 4. We are very aware that members paid for classes that were cancelled or reduced and refunds not issued. This is our way of saying "Thank You" for continuing to support your U3A. We are fortunate that we had funds in reserve to carry us through the months; our funds are now greatly reduced but will hopefully rebuild in the new year.

Members will be pleased to hear that the St Agnes Parish Administration has extended our lease for another 12 months to 2024 and assured us of their continued support for PMHU3A.

Returning to U3A in October will bring back members to not only attend classes and stimulate the 'grey matter' but also to socialise and laugh over a cuppa again (bring your own cup please). Our Course Coordinator and Conveners have been busy planning the Term 4 program which sees the return of many of our favourite classes and a couple of new ones. Term 4 should also see the return of our Saturday movie mornings.

Maybe we can look forward to a bit more freedom as so many people are now vaccinated or getting vaccinated, and warmer weather approaches to allow us to enjoy the outdoors a bit more.

To reduce the handling of cash and workload of the office people we now have a Card Payment facility available for payment of such things as morning teas. Some may choose to pay upfront for morning teas to alleviate the need to carry coins. Card payment is only available in the office and will certainly be available once enrolments start again.

This is my last President's Message as my three-year term finishes at the AGM on 5 November. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as President even though the last two years were not as I had hoped or expected, with shutdowns, cancellation of classes and social functions. But through it all the wonderful support from our members and especially from the Management Committee has made it rewarding in so many ways.

I thank the many who have contributed to the success of our U3A. The IT Team, CST, Office People, Gardeners, Social Committee, Newsletter editor, the all important Conveners and many others. One very special person who has done so much work over not just the last three years but 10 years, is our Secretary Sue Moll without whose support I could not have managed.

I will look forward to travelling and seeing this beautiful country, COVID permitting, enjoying just being a member attending classes and functions when I am home.

Again, thank you to all and I wish the new President, Committee and members all the very best in the future.

Lorraine Beukers, President PMHU3A ■

Course Information

“We’re back!” Or at least that’s our plan. In the last few months there have been a number of new experiences related to COVID. But we certainly weren’t expecting to have Term 3 last for only one week. However, ever optimistic, the program for Term 4 is full of most of our regular courses. Why not spend more time with friends between classes in our beautiful courtyard garden? Why not choose an extra course or two this term? While there are a few new courses to choose from, why not explore our regular courses but in an area that you’ve never considered before?

Art & Music, Craft & Entertainment, Writing & Photography – Try a new course each day to let the imagination and your creativity flow.

Exercise – Done both indoors and outdoors. The weather is warming up. Time to put on those shorts and T-shirts? Don’t worry, track suits are still a good option as you do your best to keep fit

and have fun at the same time.

Games – Chess and bridge, card games, scrabble, crosswords and mahjong. So many choices, so little time.

Geography – Travel not possible at present? Sit back and enjoy the wonders of the world.

Health – Learn how you can navigate stressful times in your life.

History – Do you really know all there is to know about the world, or even Australia?

Languages – Challenge the brain and laugh at yourself as you try to express yourself in new ways.

Technology – Finally get some quality help from our in-house experts!

Understanding the World – What’s happening in our world today? How did we get here? What new ways of thinking can help us?

Course Coordinator, Karen Roberts ■

Doug Emanuel wants you to know that **Australian History (Monday)** is back on the rails. A highlight of Term

4 will be a long-awaited presentation by retired School teacher Colin Creek, prepared last year to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Captain James Cook’s epic voyage of exploration to the East coast of Australia in 1770. Also don’t miss the story of the Little Boy Lost in 1960 – Stephen Walls.

Jane Stevenson adds that while the 500 card group couldn’t play at the Centre last term they still managed to have fun playing online using the Trickster.com app. Playing from the comfort of their own homes, cups of coffee and glasses of wine added to the party atmosphere.

However, the group is looking forward to playing in person during Term 4. Anyone who would like to join is welcome, beginners or experienced.

STOP PRESS! At its meeting on 21 September the Management Committee resolved that as compensation for members’ patience and understanding during the lockdown there will be no enrolment fees for courses in Term 4. ■

Helping Hands

It is said that Many hands make light work, and this is especially true for a volunteer organisation like ours where the work includes arranging courses, coordinating programs, running the office, managing and supporting our IT operations, maintaining our building and facilities, generating publicity, organising social activities and so on. To be effective we must have enough volunteers in each area but one, the office, suffers a chronic shortage.

The office is staffed up to eight hours per day during term and ideally we would like to roster volunteers for just half a day per week. However, this is rarely possible because not enough members offer their time. While the work requires some familiarity with office procedures and systems, an ability to solve problems, and good interpersonal skills, if spread among enough people the individual workload need not be onerous. We know that many members have the necessary abilities and experience but, because

too few are prepared to come forward, existing volunteers are asked to do more than is reasonable. We do not wish to decrease office opening hours but that could become the only viable option. So please consider giving a little of



your time to help out. Training is provided and we’re sure you’ll find the rewards more than worth the effort. Just contact Sue Moll for further information.

The Convener Support Team is also in need of volunteers. Members of the team help set up the technology for classes and are on hand if problems arise. You don’t have to be a ‘Tech Whizz’ and the training you’re given will help you learn more about computers and programs. Please contact John Peasley on 0409 369 882 if you feel you could help.

Last, but not least, the Committee. To play its role effectively any committee has to look to the future and this

requires regular renewal. At the AGM in November all positions will be declared vacant and this offers a great opportunity for you to step up and make a real contribution. All you need is a firm commitment to

U3A and an idea or two about how we can sustain and improve what we do. So please think seriously about it and feel free to speak to any of the current committee if you’d like to know more. ■

Afghan Rescue Mission

Christine Battison leads our acclaimed U3A dance team which performs dances from around the world to appreciative audiences. However, her daughter Alison, a Human Rights lawyer, was recently involved in a very different international effort, the evacuation of a number of Afghan athletes from Kabul.

(Continued on p4, 3rd column)

Moving to MyU3A



When Hastings Valley U3A (our original name) started in 2005 we had the good fortune to have among our

members someone with many years of experience in computer programming and the development of Information Technology for business. The member to whom we refer is Nick Ogbourne who was appointed as webmaster and began to develop a computerised administration system to underpin our operations. Over the past sixteen years Nick has nurtured and refined the system, keeping it fit-for-purpose as our membership grew from 85 to over 900 and our course offerings from 11 to more than 80. Our debt of gratitude to Nick for his unstinting efforts over so many years is immeasurable.

Nevertheless there comes a time when we have to consider what would happen if we were to lose Nick's services for any reason, as we have no one else who understands the system well enough to take on the role. It is the same position that Geelong U3A faced in 2010 when the member who had produced its administration system wanted to move on but there was no replacement. Such 'continuity' problems are not unique to IT but the high level of technical expertise needed in that area makes it especially vulnerable.

Geelong U3A overcame the problem by approaching ICARIS Services which had developed a series of generic software components which could be configured to meet the needs of companies in different industries. After analysing the processes involved in running a U3A the appropriate components were selected and configured to run those processes. Geelong implemented the system and in 2014 two other U3As adopted it. They were followed by several more U3As and a support network was formed. Many U3As have since taken up the system and now enjoy the strong security and support the MyU3A Network provides.

Some 18 months ago Database Manager Bruce Wyatt began examining MyU3A as a potential replacement for our existing system and was later joined by John Peasley and others looking at the issue from different angles. Later, a team comprising IT people, office volunteers and others was established to conduct an in-depth evaluation. Its report was favourable, so, at its meeting in July, the Committee decided to move to MyU3A in mid-November this year. Training sessions for office volunteers and other administrative personnel will begin as soon as possible after the switch-over.

Many readers will wonder how the change will affect them. Most members' online interaction with MyU3A revolves around membership, course bookings

What's On!

ENROLMENT DATES – TERM 4 2021

See page 1.

TERM DATES 2021

TERM 4: 18 Oct – 10 Dec

MOVIE SHOW

Terry Feltham will present 'The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society'

Saturday 9 October 10.15am – 12.30pm

Room 10, U3A Centre

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 5 November 2021 at 3.00pm

Room 10, PMHU3A Centre

Terry will present further movies on 23 October and 20 November and we also hope to arrange some social functions. These will be advertised in the Centre and via email at the appropriate time so keep your eyes peeled.

and associated payments. Although the new system will look different, the procedures will remain essentially the same and step-by-step instructions will be issued at the appropriate time. Hands-on training sessions for members and conveners will be offered during the summer break.

The Committee does not underestimate the magnitude of the change but believes that it is necessary to secure our future and we feel assured that members will do all they can to ease the transition. ■

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held at the PMHU3A Centre at 3.00pm on Friday 5 November 2021. The principal items of business will be the presentation of the Annual Report and the election of Office Bearers and other members of the Management Committee for the coming year.

Nominations are called for the following positions:

President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, Ordinary Committee members – six (6) positions

The following rules apply to nominations:

- 1) Nominees for the committee must be financial Ordinary Members of the association of at least 12 months standing.
- 2) Nominations must:
 - a) be made in writing, signed by two (2) financial members of the association of at least 12 months standing, and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the nomination form), and
 - b) be delivered to the secretary of the association at least 14 days before the date fixed for the holding of the annual general meeting at which the election is to take place.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the office when it re-opens for Term 4. The deadline for lodging nominations is 3.00pm on 22 October 2021.

Covid-19

There will come a time when we don't need to talk about this but that time is still some distance away. So, a reminder that when we start up again for Term 4 the rules and restrictions applying to members using the U3A Centre will be as they were for Term 3 before the lockdown — compulsory check-in using the Service NSW QR code or manual recording, hand hygiene, mask-wearing, appropriate distancing, one-way traffic and BYO drinking vessel.

One thing that has changed over the past two or three months is that most of

us are now vaccinated, and we strongly urge anyone who isn't, and who has no medical reason not to be, to become vaccinated both for your own sake and for the protection of others. It is clear from government statements that access to some venues will soon be restricted to people who are vaccinated, and while we are not, at this stage, intending to ask for proof of vaccination as a condition of entry to the Centre or participation in U3A activities, we could be required to do so in the future in order to fulfil our duty of care to members.

We have every confidence that all our members will act responsibly in this matter. ■

(Continued from p2)

Afghan Rescue Mission

Alison worked with two other lawyers, one in Sydney and one in London, and an intelligence agent in quarantine in a Brisbane hotel. Together they prepared the necessary paperwork, liaised with Craig Foster, politicians and the ADF to rescue the athletes.

It is hard to imagine the difficulties and sleepless nights they faced during the two weeks leading up to the deadline ...but you can get some idea of the challenges by watching the video *Flight to Freedom* available on ABC iview.

If undeliverable, return to:

Port Macquarie Hastings U3A Inc.
PO Box 1210
Port Macquarie NSW 2444
PMHU3A Newsletter

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POST**

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AUSTRALIA**

President

Lorraine Beukers 0411 468 689
president@pmhu3a.org.au

Vice President

Tony Dawson 0424 616 026
vicepresident@pmhu3a.org.au

Secretary

Sue Moll 6582 2785
honsec@pmhu3a.org.au

Treasurer

Avril Stewart 0418 754 277
treasurer@pmhu3a.org.au

Course Coordinator

Karen Roberts 6584 7707
coursecoordinator@pmhu3a.org.au

Publicity Officer

Gail Mendoza 0403 884 942
publicity@pmhu3a.org.au

Office Manager

Frank Beukers 0411 468 682
officeadministrator@pmhu3a.org.au

Newsletter Editor

Tony Dawson 6584 7648
newsletter@pmhu3a.org.au

Newsletter Production

Sue Clifford 0408 642 645
p.scifrd@bigpond.net.au

Grants Officer

Michael Rogers 6584 0039
grantsofficer@pmhu3a.org.au

Building Manager

Michael Bowden 6583 5764
buildingmanager@pmhu3a.org.au

Web Manager

Andrew Moll 6582 2785
webmanager@pmhu3a.org.au

Committee (all members)

committee@pmhu3a.org.au

Port Macquarie Hastings U3A Inc.

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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