



U3A Hawkesbury Inc.



Hawkesbury Incorporated

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News from the Office – February 2020

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A warm welcome back to everyone. Quite a few of our members live in the Berambing/Bilpin area and I am very mindful of the horrific conditions that our area has suffered over the last two or more months. This suffering continues as the bush fires continue to burn in much of the East Coast. Our thoughts turn to those who have lost family members, homes, businesses and farming livelihoods. We hope and pray that assistance is being organised quickly. To the RFS and other organisations the appreciation cannot be expressed adequately in words, thank you is just not enough for what you have been through and what many are still going through. It makes one very proud to be an Australian.

By the time you receive this Newsletter our AGM will have been held and I saw many of your smiling faces there. Our committee remains very much the same with one new member welcomed on board, Annette Haines. The final issue of Ellie Engelen's bi-monthly class news was in December last year and a special thanks to Ellie for devoting 14 years to the task of compiling Essentially Ellie. This reflected Ellie's bright and warm nature.

Our 2018 Writing Competition publication, which contained all the entries received, was compiled very professionally by Dianne Thompson and Rhonda Green. The group of helpers who bound the books ready for sale did a grand job as well.

Due to lack of entries, the 2019 Writing Competition was cancelled but a Valerie Tabet Encouragement Award was presented at the AGM. This was a committee award in memory of Valerie who was herself a talented writer. Congratulations to Janine Dray and runner up Mauren Handley.

We are hopeful that the 2020 competition will attract more entries now that it has been opened to all members, not just Writing Classes. Read more about it below.

The U3A Network 2020 NSW State Conference and AGM will be hosted by Shellharbour U3A at the end of April. More information can be found on the Network's website if you are interested in attending.

The majority of our members receive their Newsletters and information by email. We are indebted to our committee member, Ken Fraser, for introducing mailchimp which is a free programme for marketing and newsletters. Prior to this our Newsletters were being received as Spam. This meant that some servers placed them straight into member's junk file. That problem has been solved. Be aware, though, that if you unsubscribe then you will no longer receive your monthly Newsletter and Class Calendar.

We have had a successful year and are still managing to cover costs, the largest of which is venue hire. Our committee is committed and hard working as are all our volunteers & office workers. It is you, our enthusiastic members and tutors/convenors who make U3A Hawkesbury such a happy and successful organisation. I know you are keen to begin your classes again this year and renew your friendships. I wish you all an enjoyable U3A year and remind you that if you do have any problems or just want to talk please contact me.

Geoff Hatch, JP
President

2020 PROGRAMME

Our Class Co-ordinators have been very busy preparing Class Rolls which were available for collection at the AGM by Tutors and Convenors. It is a mammoth task and made so much easier when members renew prior to the AGM. Tutors and Convenors unable to attend the meeting can collect their rolls from the office during office hours or make special arrangements by calling the secretary.

WRITING COMPETITION FOR 2020 is open to all U3A Hawkesbury Members with the exception of the Writing Class Tutors. If you enjoy writing up your holiday experiences, poetry or the odd fictional story, then we encourage you to enter into our competition. There are small monetary prizes for winners in each category i.e. **Fiction, Non Fiction and Poetry**. Members may enter one item in each category if so desired. Guidelines for the competition will be in the March Newsletter mail-out.

There is one copy of our 2018 competition publication still available for \$5.

PARKING: A message to all members attending classes at Hawkesbury Skills: **Please do not park in the two Reserved Parking places. One is for the River of Life Church and one is for U3A Office workers only.**

U3A office administration and Class Enrolment is required to be done outside office hours so please consider the work that goes on behind the scenes to keep our organisation going and leave the reserved places free. Both Reserved Places are part of the rental agreement with Hawkesbury Skills for the Church and U3A.

facebook.

Many of us are on **facebook** to connect with family, especially family members who do not live close by. If you are on **facebook**, please consider 'liking' and, in particular, 'sharing' the U3A Hawkesbury **facebook** page. It is a very useful tool for publicizing our great organisation.

WEBPAGE

Our webpage is also worth a visit; www.hawkesbury.u3anet.org.au , you may see yourself busily enjoying one of your classes. Our webpage is very informative and is another form of publicizing U3A

MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Included in this Newsletter is a form that we request you keep as it outlines your responsibilities as a member. It is not an onerous list and taking note of these would assist in keeping our wheels turning smoothly.

The following item was inadvertently omitted from 2019 Essentially Ellie, Year in Review:

TABLETOP GAMES – **Jean Pitkin and Pam Peters**. As usual the class on the first Tuesday in November coincided with the Melbourne Cup so we had a few nibbles and drinks to celebrate. The Scrabble section of this class welcomed a new member at the last class of the year and I can only reiterate what has been said before, namely that there is plenty of room in this class for new members and we are more than happy to teach the skills of the card games and Scrabble to those who are not expert in these games. Keeping the grey cells active is the name of the game!! .

"I have reached the age when, if someone tells me to 'wear socks' I don't have to."

Albert Einstein.

Jeanette Hatch
Secretary