



U3A Hawkesbury Inc.



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Hawkesbury Incorporated

News from the Office –September 2020

Keeping everyone safe is a shared responsibility.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It seems we were on the brink of relief from the dreaded virus and now we are nearly back where we started. Some of us handle being at home more than others but the benefit will surely prove itself to be worth the effort. If you find it difficult to be at home without contact, please advise the office to see what can be done. Soon you may be asked to take part in a survey to help us guide the Hawkesbury U3A for the future. Please take part and let us know what you think to improve the way things are run. We appreciate your input and suggestions which guide us to provide what you enjoy. In the meantime keep warm and enjoy life even if what is presented to us is not really what we want. Remember it's like bush walking it keeps you going just to find out what's beyond the bend or over the next hill.

Our thoughts and best wishes are extended to our members who are suffering illness and undergoing extensive treatment. Our prayers are for positive outcomes.

Keep warm and keep safe.

Geoff Hatch JP

President

VALE Dorothy MacDougal

This has been a very sad month and as this letter was about to be printed we had the unexpected and sad news that Dorothy MacDougal passed away in her sleep last Monday night, the 17th. Dorothy joined U3A in 2014 enjoying many classes and activities.

A delightful lady, Dorothy was diagnosed with bowel cancer two years ago but with her bright outlook she managed well without treatment.

Allan Seale, a gardening guru, was Dorothy's cousin which goes a long way in understanding where her gardening skill came from. It was in her genes. Right up until her passing, she propagated plants for the Norman Lindsay Gallery and was a popular guide there as well. Dorothy was very community minded and one of her interests was Red Cross of which she was the Springwood branch president when living in the mountains. At 91, Dorothy was still driving and enjoying her many interests, one of which was her involvement in our Birds of the Hawkesbury Class. Our deepest sympathy goes to her family. Her cousin in law is Shirley Searle whose words say it all; "she will be missed."

VALE We had the sad news in the office last week that a past member, Sophie Berg, had passed away after a three year battle with cancer. Sophie was a keen photographer and had been an active member of U3A. Sophie's funeral was on Tuesday 25th August.

Ian Biddle has included Writing Competition information. I am not a writer but I was comfortable writing about my recollections of V P Day so how about taking time to put pen to paper? If you have lots of time on your hands it may become an enjoyable task.

VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC commemorated. Memories – Jeanette Hatch

As I begin this Newsletter the commemoration for the end of the Second World War is taking place in Canberra. It took me back to the 15th August 1945.

I was a student in at Wagga Grammar School; not a happy student so when my sister, Kath (U3A Hawkesbury Life Member Kath Wilkins) arrived to collect me I was over the moon. Just short of turning 6

I did not have a very good understanding of what war was or what the day meant except to know that our eldest brother, Carl, known as Nipper, an electric fitter in the RAAF would be coming home soon. Kath took me down to the main street where we joined the flag waving, joyful crowd. What stands out in my mind for some reason is the sound of many train whistles.

My experience is a small one compared to the many families who lost loved ones and the families, like ours, who knew homecomings would soon be taking place.

But what of those home comings? The tragic effect the experience had on those involved, the injuries both physical and mental. Our beautiful brother, returning at the age of 21, had been badly affected which was to affect the rest of his life.

Nipper had been part of the 33,000 army, air force and navy personnel in the final operation at Balikpapan in south-east Borneo on the 1st July 1945. This was the largest amphibious assault by Australian forces.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO?

Try the U3A WRITING COMPETITION

We now have no excuse to not exercise our minds and prepare an entry for the Hawkesbury U3A Writing Competition. There are three categories from which to select.

- **Non-Fiction:** Your maximum word length is 2000. Excellent non-fiction articles are often much less. Popular topics for beginning writers include; life stories, reminiscences of growing up, traveller's tales, stories from the past, local history, heroes, including ancestors, hobbies, book reviews and observations of modern life. It is important to realise that what is most important is the interest and enthusiasm of the writer for their topic.
- **Fiction:** Fiction writing is writing based upon non-factual prose. Its purpose is to entertain or outline a writer's point of view. Entries would most likely be short stories; the word limit is 2000 words. Short stories are to be usually read in one sitting. Short stories are much less complex than novels and will only have a few characters, a limited number of settings, and incidents and usually take place over a short period.
- **Poetry:** A poem is a collection of words that express ideas and emotions in a powerfully vivid and imaginary way. It will embrace rhythm and imagery and sometimes rhyme. The words are chosen for their beauty and sound. A poem is written with lines and stanzas instead of sentences and paragraphs and range from free verse to structured sonnets.

Non-fiction is probably the easiest way to start. All people, especially at our age, have a story to tell. Writing things down becomes easier the more you do it. You have plenty of time to practice before the end of October.

A SPECIAL CATEGORY:

If you don't feel like entering the Writing Competition and being judged but would like to put down some of your thoughts and ideas; why not write about your experiences during the Covid 19 situation and sharing this with others? There will be no word limits and no restrictions on format or structure. If there are enough contributions these could be put together in a booklet. Writers can be anonymous if they wish.

You are at present living through one of the most amazing periods. How about writing about this? It could be on how you are surviving, your daily routines, how the country will be different, how we now appreciate non material things more or an historical perspective of the events as they unfold.

Further information:

Information packs with further information and how to get started are available by contacting the office, or on the U3A Webpage link.

PHOTOGRAPHY for FUN

Convenor, Julie Wilson, has contributed to this Newsletter with an interesting update on this popular class. She even included some photographs, so read on and see what these happy snappers have been up to and what they may be doing in months to come.

Jeanette Hatch
Secretary

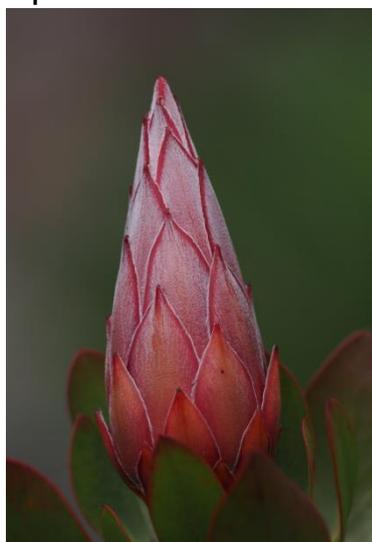
Photography for Fun Class Update August 2020

With the onset of COVID-19, like many other classes, things have changed for us. Our monthly lesson is conducted over Zoom, giving class members a chance to learn something new, have refreshers of past topics, ask questions and chat with fellow class members about, not only their photography pursuits, but their personal life challenges and achievements as well.

With outings now possible, as long as we adhere to the guidelines set out for us, we have had a couple of successful field trips. The first, in July, found us walking along the bank the Nepean River, enjoying the fresh air, scenery, birdlife and experimenting with making images of the water flowing over the weir.



In August, we ventured to The Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mount Tomah, on a very cold and windy day. The wind chill was quite significant, but that didn't deter us at all. We had a very pleasant morning wandering the pathways and lawns enjoying all sorts of wonderful flowers, shrubs, trees and birds. A well earned break and warm drink near the kiosk to round off the morning was a great opportunity to chat about our experiences.



We're looking forward to going to Sydney Zoo in September.