



U3A Hawkesbury Inc.



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Hawkesbury Incorporated

News from the Office –October 2020

Keeping everyone safe is a shared responsibility.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Have you enjoyed the nice drop of rain we are had? It was fairly dry and we needed it.

U3A Hawkesbury recently organised and conducted a Regional Forum. Attending were the presidents of the U3As in our Region; Sydney, Macarthur, Nepean/Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury and our Regional Representative, Helen Matthews. An apology was received from Liverpool. The Forum was called to discuss how groups were managing during Covid and the concerns we have about the NSW Network. Attending from Hawkesbury was Jeanette Hatch, Annette Haynes and Ken Fraser who have dedicated much time to this matter over recent weeks. I kept in the background and the forum was well chaired by Ken Fraser.

There was much discussion and at times became lively which is good. It displayed the mixed feelings of those attending. It is very clear that most were disheartened by the activities of the Network which don't appear to fully consider the feelings of everyone regarding the direction being followed. I thank everyone for their time and effort in this matter and we await the outcome of the Network reaction and the future Forum planned for November. A full report of the Forum can be read at the office.

Membership is growing although understandably behind last year at this time. Our classes are slowly returning to as best we can achieve as normal and the dreaded virus is still reminding us that we must play safe.

Please keep well and I am sure you realise that there cannot be an end of year Luncheon due to constraints on numbers and social distancing. I love your smiling happy faces so don't be afraid to show them. If you are having difficulty at the moment please contact the office we are here to help.

Geoff Hatch JP
President

CLASS NEWS

SHIBASHI has a change of time due to warmer weather. This group will now meet at 9.30am at Pugh's Lagoon. Even though the weather has disrupted regular meetings of this class, when we have met, the peace and calm of the area makes it well worthwhile. *(We ignore the traffic noise!)*

LAW FOR SENIORS will be held on a Friday from the 8th October to 22nd November inclusive. This class is in need of more participants. The information presented by retired solicitor, Barry Wall, is invaluable for seniors. Topics include retirement, superannuation, wills, Powers of Attorney, retirement units and nursing homes. This class is held at North Richmond Community Centre.

TABLE TENNIS has resumed, in a limited capacity, with the purchase of a new table. We are indebted to North Richmond Community Centre's Birgit Walter, manager, and Mandy Conradi, office and bookings, for allowing us to store the table.

The convenors will organise the limited attendance of Class Members.

Thank you to Dieter Hinzmann for sourcing the table on EBay and, along with assistance of Allan King, for assembling the table ready for use.

U3A WRITING COMPETITION

Information packs with further information and how to get started are available by contacting the office and are also available through our U3A Webpage link.

We have received some entries in Poetry, Non Fiction, Fiction and a few Covid stories. The hope is that there are more members who are prepared to enter. The competition is open to all members not just the Writing Group members.

2021 PROGRAMME

Class Coordinators, Marilyn Tyers and Penny Fraser have sent out the Tutor/Convenor forms for 2021. It is expected and understandable that not all classes will resume under the present circumstances which also may mean a drop in renewal of memberships. We all remain hopeful that a vaccine will ease the situation sometime in the not too distant future and that all classes will then resume. Until that occurs, we will continue in the way of our New Normal.

2020 U3A HAWKESBURY MEMBERS' SURVEY

Thank you to all of the members who have responded to our Member Survey. The response so far has been very pleasing. We have received 144 responses which is 40% of our membership. If you have not responded, you are encouraged to do so prior to our next committee meeting which is on Monday 12th October. It only takes a short time to complete and your answers are completely anonymous. There are spare forms in the office or you can complete the one that was emailed to you previously. Your responses will be useful to the Committee as we plan future activities.

If you are a member who has indicated an interest in standing for committee or becoming a Tutor or Convenor, please don't hesitate to call into the office or phone during office hours. You will be made very welcome.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ART AND CRAFT WORKSHOPS

Once again, the Macquarie Towns Art Society is presenting their popular Art and Craft fun for boys and girls, 5 -15, beginning on Monday 28th September through to Friday 9th October. There is a limit of 19 at each session and safe distancing rules apply.

The activities include making jigsaw puzzles, drawing dragons to fairies, painting jewellery, making pottery, making slime, and decorating treasure boxes.

There must be many a grandchild in your care during the holidays who would love to attend one or more of these sessions. Cost is \$15 with all equipment provided and bookings are essential by phoning 0412 979 731.

Classes are held at Richmond Art Supplies, Shop1, 382 Windsor Street, Richmond.

That's all folks!

Jeanette Hatch

Secretary

Following is a poem by Denise Lazdens, our Ukulele Tutor and a Class update from Julie Wilson, our Photography for Fun convenor. Thank you, Denise and Julie.

VALE JOHN THOMPSON

Dianne Thompson's beloved husband, John, 'the wind beneath her wings', passed away in August. In view of the Covid-19 restrictions a family funeral service was held at Castlebrook Crematorium on August 18th. John's family is very sorry that his many friends were not permitted to attend, and thank all their U3A friends for their messages of sympathy and support. The service was streamed and will be available until probably November 13th. It can be viewed on the internet by clicking on the following link in this email, or by typing the link into the search engine on your internet browser.

<https://www.oneromstreaming.com/view/authorise.php?k=1597588339317832>

Editor's note.

Dianne Thompson is a Life Member of U3A Hawkesbury and gives valuable support to the running of our organisation. From computer assistance to editing our publications, Dianne's assistance is and has been invaluable.

When John required full time care, Dianne still gave her time to the printing of our Lunch tickets and assisting with the compilation of our Writing Competition publication. The hardest decision for Dianne was to put John's care into the hands of Richmond Nursing Home where she continued her care of him at meal times. John was a beautiful natured man and I encourage you to take up the offer of watching his funeral to hear more about his life. Many of his antics will have you laughing. A very keen camper and skilled bushman, John was called on to assist in the search for missing hikers. It was a privilege to know John.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Dianne, who has lost her dearest mate, and to Ian (son), Sarah, Gemma, Michael, Liz (daughter) and Phil.

This was a Bible reading from John's funeral service:

Isaiah 40:31

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Notes on Covid19

By Denise Lazdans. U3A Hawkesbury. 2020

Mother Nature had felt the strain;
Pollution slowly chokes the air;
Poisons the water ways from rain
For the love of progress stripped her bare.
Now life in Covid19 days
I will take, each day as it comes
And try to keep positive ways
Not let fear bring me undone.
One morning I woke, and I found
My breathing was not ill at ease
For China's virus did compound
Shunted the world down to its knees.
Productions cut, the traffic slows
Life awakens into full bloom
I hear the early morning crows
My heart sores above all this gloom.
Mother Nature now serenades
My musical soul-brings me wings.
For I can breathe, my asthma fades
How good is life when we can sing?

Photography for Fun Class Update September 2020

Julie Wilson

Our September Zoom lesson started with our usual social catch up, with all participants having a turn to evaluate group challenges, discuss photographic achievements, non-achievements, interests and future learning plans. We did a recap of topics we had studied so far and reminded ourselves of how important it is to "know your camera well".

The focus of the lesson was "Post Processing". We discussed the degrees of processing, our personal preferences and some aspects that are crucial for images to look appealing.

Our outing took us to Sydney Zoo. It was amazing! It is well worth an excursion for all!

We had a beautiful day, albeit a little hot by the time we left. We meandered along the pathways stopping to create images of such a wonderful range of animals on exhibition. We met up at the Boulevard Eatery to chat about our experiences and to be refreshed, so much so, that most of us decided to do another round of some of the enclosures in order to grab some more desired shots.

In October we'll be going to Jeni and Les Chalmers' property, the home of Karu Distillery.

