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Hawkesbury Incorporated

Webpage: www.hawkesbury.u3anet.org.au

News from the Office –December 2020

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Here we are at Christmas time again but let's think back to March 2020 when we didn't know where we were going or when we would get there. Perhaps we are no longer afraid of the Covid 19 virus but beware and stay healthy; we need your friendship and fellowship.

The office has received many messages of thanks from members who appreciate the way Hawkesbury U3A has survived and for the way re-organization has held us all together over the last 9 months.

Time for our Christmas break; classes have ceased, Hawkesbury U3A office will close on the 11th December and re open on the 18th January 2021.

I personally thank our office workers and Committee for the hard work they have done in 2020 and remind everyone that our AGM will be held on the 27th Jan 2021 at the South Windsor Masonic Centre as usual. Please come along, renew your membership if you have not done so or have your say. For the first time, there will be no Luncheon at this meeting.

A Class Report Newsletter will be mailed out next week so keep your eye out for this.

God bless everyone and have a Happy Christmas and a safe New Year.

Geoff Hatch JP
President

VALE

To hear of the passing of members is always a very sad time and November brought more sadness to U3A Hawkesbury.

Betty Ingram passed away on the 10th November after being lovingly cared for at home in her final days by her daughter, Lisa. Betty joined U3A Hawkesbury in 1998 and during her time as a member she was a very keen and talented patchworker, needlework being one of her many skills. Betty also loved her Mah Jong and Cryptic Xwords and through attendance in these activities she showed her true worth as a friend and confidant. For many years, Betty also tutored a Beginners Patchwork group in her home at South Windsor. Betty was a great friend of Geoff's through their participation in Windsor Bowling Club and it was through Geoff that I met Betty. To us she was a very special lady whom we were proud to know.

A very hard working lady, her life experiences were vast, some difficult times and many happy times which made her an understanding friend to many. Her family came first bringing her the most joy in her life. The loss of two sons, Kerry and Garry, through illness, was very hard to bear. Our deepest sympathy goes to her children, Ian, Greg and Lisa, along with her many and much loved grandchildren, great grandchildren, great, great grandchildren and brothers Colin and Errol.

Rene Chalmers passed away on the 18th November at the wonderful age of 99. Rene was a member of U3A since 2013 when she joined to participate in the Art Class with her daughter-in-Law, Jeni. Coming to Australian in 1958 the Chalmers family moved to the Hawkesbury in 1960 where Mr Chalmers managed the Rosella Factory in South Windsor until its closure. In later years they returned to the Hawkesbury to be near their son, Les. Rene was laid to rest on Thursday, 26th November and with the opening of the Victorian border it allowed family members to travel to farewell a much loved family member. Our deepest sympathy goes to the Chalmers family and in particular to Les and Jeni.

CLASS NEWS

2021 OLD TIME DANCING . At the request of Class Members, Denise Matthews will be holding this class weekly instead of twice a month. Thank you for your great contribution, Denise

2021 SHIBASHI. This class will also be held weekly for those class members who wish gain more benefit from this gentle form of exercise. Please note that Shibashi (Tai Chi) starts at 9.30am during the hotter months and will continue to be held at Pugh's Lagoon.

BASIC BIBLE. After many years of offering this class, Roy and Nancye Courtney are taking a well earned rest. They continue their role in Hawkesbury Church of Christ as well as keeping up with their two youngest grandsons. Thank you, Roy and Nancye.

Best wishes to all for a Joyous Christmas and a very Happy and Healthy 2021.

Jeanette Hatch
Secretary

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF U3A HAWKESBURY INC.

The Annual General Meeting of U3A Hawkesbury Inc.

Will be held at the
Hawkesbury Masonic Centre
731 George Street
South Windsor (Bligh Park end)

Two square metre rule is requested to be observed.

Wednesday 27th January 2021 at 10.00am

Any notice of motion, must be in the hands of the secretary, in writing, 14 days prior to the meeting.

No motion will be accepted without this prior notice.

Parking is available at the rear of the building.

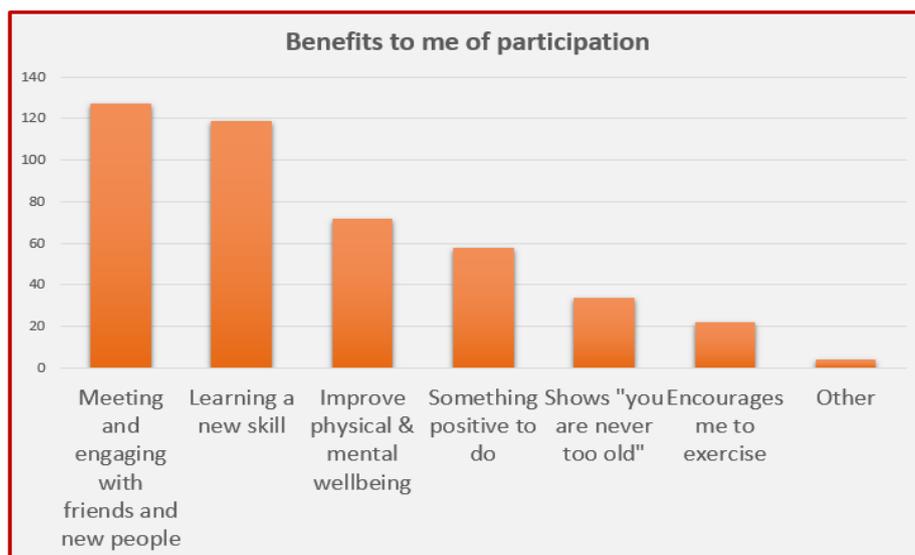
Please note: there will be no lunch but cold water will be available.

Nomination Forms for committee are available from the office or by contacting the secretary by phone on 0427 979 655 or by email.

More Information from our Member Survey

From the Survey of members conducted in September, it was interesting to learn how people first heard about U3A. By far, the most common answer with more than 50% was “from a friend”. This indicates that the most effective way of spreading the word about U3A is by current members talking with others who may be interested. Keep those conversations going, friends.

It was really gratifying to see that our members really benefited from their participation in U3A Hawkesbury. Respondents were asked to select **three things** that they found of most personal benefit. The graph shows the results, with the top two responses highlighting the value that members see in meeting and engaging with friends and new people, and learning something new. These are the key goals of U3A.



In regard to possible improvements to the operation and administration of our U3A, there were a number of suggestions that the Committee will consider. Overall, members expressed strong support for the Tutors, the office workers and the way the organisation is administered, which was greatly appreciated.

A number of members indicated that they were interested in becoming more involved, as a volunteer in the office, as a Tutor or Activity Coordinator or as a member of the Management Committee. As the survey was completely confidential, we are not sure who these people are, but would be happy to hear from you in person.

- Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find an invitation to nominate for election to the U3A Management Committee. Please consider this avenue.
- We are always on the lookout for new classes or activities, so if you are able to take on a role as a tutor for something new, or wish to suggest someone else whom we could contact, let us know in the office.
- For those interested in volunteering in the office, we plan to conduct a short training program early in the New Year to teach people the ropes. Please look out for more information on this in future newsletters.

Many respondents added very encouraging and supportive final comments at the end of the survey which is much appreciated. There were also a few final suggestions. Here is just a sample:

<i>Just to thank everyone involved in the management committee and tutors for their time and energy. Much appreciated.</i>	<i>U3a is a wonderful organisation and we are fortunate to have such committed local leadership</i>
<i>I enjoy doing Tai Chi Shibashi in the open air</i>	<i>I don't like Zoom meetings – better in class meetings</i>
<i>Just waiting for all our classes to recommence</i>	<i>No, I think the team are doing a grand job as it is. My thanks to you all.</i>
<i>So pleased I found Hawkesbury U3A. Such lovely, caring people in the office and tutors.</i>	<i>I like the informality and the easy, relaxed atmosphere</i>
<i>I much appreciate the current work being done by U3A. Keep it going.</i>	<i>I am forever grateful to the friend who encouraged me to join the Hawkesbury U3A.</i>
<i>U3A Hawkesbury is unique in the number of courses on offer - I sometimes wish that it were closer geographically - but I have lots to keep me busy anyway. Well done all you who serve - keep up the good work!</i>	