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*Hawkesbury Incorporated*

Webpage: [www.hawkesbury.u3anet.org.au](http://www.hawkesbury.u3anet.org.au)

## News from the Office – March 2021

### **PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT**

Following is the President's Annual Report presented at the AGM held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021:

*2020, what a year. We may never see anything like it again but perhaps this year may be similar. We do not know.*

*Sadly, during the year, we lost several members with the passing of Max Doyle, Dorothy MacDougall, Sophie Borg, John Thompson, Betty Ingram and Rene Chalmers. Out thoughts go out to their families.*

*I congratulate you all for the way you accepted the necessary changes that were required to keep us going. Reluctantly, classes were cancelled from the 16<sup>th</sup> March. In the true spirit of Hawkesbury U3A, Tutors and Convenors found ways to keep their activities going in so many ways; email, phone and zoom were used. Newsletters became a monthly experience during the lockdown, keeping our brains working with the challenging puzzle pages, thanks to Ken Fraser. Members were also able to access the U3A bookshelves or borrow jigsaw puzzles from the Skill's Centre. I was pleased to see the initiative shown to keep us in touch and operative. Classes resumed in a limited capacity from 1<sup>st</sup> July with every precaution being taken by following the Dept of Health directives.*

*We missed our social outings such as the annual lunch but we are hopeful this can return soon.*

*I thank our committee and office volunteers who never seem to tire of their duties. They put so much time into their respective jobs and never complain, at least not to me.*

*It is inevitable that when not much is happening there is not much to report or talk about. May God bless you all and keep you healthy, safe and smiling. Enjoy your time and U3A family.*

**Geoff Hatch JP**  
**President**

### **Class News**

#### **CLASS CO-ORDINATOR:**

It would be appreciated if all **class related matters** be addressed to our Class Co-ordinator, Penny Fraser, when emailing. Phone messages for Penny are entered into the Class Co-ordinator's message book and are dealt with on a regular basis.

#### **LUNCH CLUB:**

Convened by Bernie Stevers, this has had an excellent response. It is not too late to enrol. If you are financial and would like to join this group just contact the office and our Class Co-ordinator will add you to the Roll. Information is also on the Webpage.

#### **LAW FOR SENIORS:**

A change of day has been necessary for Barry Wall's class. His first eight-week session will now be held on a **Monday. Dates are 15<sup>th</sup> March to 10<sup>th</sup> May** inclusive. It is held at the North Richmond Community Centre between 10am and 12 noon. If you wish to enrol, please contact the office. This is a most informative programme, covering all relevant areas for seniors.

### **ITEMS OF INTEREST:**

Results of the **2020 Writing Competition** were announced at the AGM. The number of prizes were awarded according to the number of entries.

Congratulations to the following winners:

**Fiction:** 1<sup>st</sup> Rosie Temple-Smith  
**Non-Fiction:** 1<sup>st</sup> Denise Doraisamy  
**Poetry:** 1<sup>st</sup> Jan Brown  
2<sup>nd</sup> Donna MacKenzie

**Covid 19 contributions** were also recognised at the AGM and the following people were acknowledged:

Henry Betancur, Anne Smith, Denise Lazdans, Robert Rudkowsky and Donna MacKenzie.

*Prize money can be collected from the office for participants who were not in attendance at the AGM.*

### **OFFICE VOLUNTEERS' TRAINING SESSION:**

A training session for office procedures will be held on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March from 1- 3pm.**

If you have indicated your willingness to assist in the office, please contact the office to make your booking.

The number will be limited due to room capacity so be quick. The training is also for our members who have already been assisting.

Those presenting the workshop are,

Treasurer, Robin Cavanagh; Class Co-ordinator, Penny Fraser; IT guru, Ken Fraser and Secretary, Jeanette Hatch. Reference notes will be distributed which will be your personal guide when or if you place your name on the office roster.

### **REMINDERS**

On joining U3A Hawkesbury members are given an information page which, if read, can answer many of the questions that are received at the office. For example, monthly Newsletters and Class Calendars are sent out to financial members with a request that these be read as they contain the answers to many of the questions received.

A common question at the beginning of each year is the starting date for classes. If members wait for the receipt of their Newsletter this information is on the Class Calendar.

Traditionally, all our classes begin in February and finish at the end of November.

All Tutors/Convenors volunteer their time and put in many hours of preparation for our benefit. If you have enrolled in a class and decide not to continue it is a small task to contact and inform the relevant Tutor. This is an important way to show respect to the Tutors and appreciation for the great work that they do for us.

A Tutors/Convenors contact list is also mailed out and it is the class members' responsibility to contact their relevant Tutor/Convenor with an apology. It is advisable to print and keep a copy of the list handy for this to be done.

When completing your Class Enrolment Form you are also requested to keep a copy for your own records. This shows you not only what class you have enrolled in but also the address at which the class is to be held.

*I wish you all a wonderful year of friendship and fun as we enter another year of 'New Normal.'*

**Jeanette Hatch**  
**Secretary**