

Hastings Valley U3A Inc

Newsletter

Volume 3 number 2

Term 2 2007

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**Our next Registration
and Enrolment Day
will be on:**

Tuesday 24th April
1.30 pm – 3.30pm
Auditorium,
Port Macquarie
Seniors Facility,
Munster Street,
Port Macquarie.

Please note: No enrolments will be taken before 1.30 pm. Only Committee Members and Course Conveners will be admitted to the auditorium before 1.30 pm.

Greetings and welcome to Term 2, 2007.

Changes in the U3A.

Over the years many U3As have wrestled with the problem of what to do with popular classes that have reached their limit on enrolments. In other words they are bursting at the seams. This year it was our turn. Brian Syms and I have devoted much time and energy in developing a procedure that is transparent, fair, and acceptable to the tutors and group members; and one that should work. This is what we have proposed, keeping in mind this policy is not set in concrete and we will adapt and change if a better way is found.

Policy on group sizes

- the maximum number in a group will be set by the tutor
- group sizes will be included in the course information leaflet each term

Policy on continuing enrolment

- Tutors will decide whether a group is classified as continuing.
- Continuing groups will be clearly identified as such in the course information leaflet.
- All continuing members of a group may be re enrolled at the last group meeting of the preceding term.
- This policy to be set out clearly and prominently in the course information leaflet.
- Where a continuing group is full, and not accepting new members, a waiting list will be set up and the course coordinator, in consultation with the tutor, will actively seek a solution, such as the establishment of a second group.

Enrolment procedures

- People enrolling in any course must demonstrate that they are financial members by showing their current name card or a receipt.
- Enrolments will not be accepted prior to the official enrolment day other than for continuing groups.

Continuing Enrolments

The procedure for enrolling continuing groups will be:

- On the last day of each term the tutors will fill in the usual Enrolment Form and collect the accommodation fees
- The fees collected, with a copy of the Enrolment Form, will be given to the Treasurer ASAP.
- If the re-enrolling group members fill the Course, it will be listed in the Course Brochure marked "No Vacancies".
- If some participants choose not to re-enrol the number of vacancies for the new term will be shown.
- In some cases the Course Convener may choose to have a waiting list.

Late Enrolments.

- At the discretion of the Course Convener members may join after the course has started and pay accommodation fees only for the rest of the term. They should post their cheque to the Treasurer with a covering note.
- Course Conveners cannot accept money during term for late enrolments. However, they may need to give a gentle reminder to late enrollees to forward their cheque.
- In some cases if the amount owing is minimal, the Course Convener will make a note at the bottom of the Attendance Sheet and the enrollee will give the money to the treasurer at next Enrolment Day.

Best wishes for another term of learning, fun and friendship.

Carol Surrey.

Visitors to Committee meetings.

The Committee would like to extend an invitation to any of our members who would like to be an observer at one of our monthly meetings. This invitation may appeal to anyone who might be contemplating joining our committee or maybe just curious about how we function. You are all most welcome. However, for practical purposes we can only have two visitors at any one time. If you wish to register your interest please leave your name and phone number with our Secretary, Brian Syms - 6582 7674.

New Courses for Term 2.

As well as our old favourites Ursula has managed to produce a smorgasbord of new courses - too many to write about here but you will find them listed clearly in the Course Brochure. I am sure you will be impressed with the variety and every member should find something that will appeal to them.

Wish List.

On Enrolment Day members are invited to discuss with Maureen Johnston some classes or groups that they would like to be offered through our U3A. Maureen will record your suggestions and pass this list onto the Committee, who will then do their best to find the appropriate Course Convenor/s. Maureen will be found behind the card that reads **WISH LIST**.

Music: right now our wish is to find someone who is musical or has an interest in music. This someone does not have to be an expert or have a degree in music but simply have a love and appreciation of music. All he or she would have to do is form a group with like minded members. The format could be a simple "interest group" where people meet, share their knowledge and listen to their favorite melodies or orchestras etc. Other options could be choral singing, forming a band or recorder group, learning about musical composers or researching the history of music through the ages. If anyone is interested contact Ursula on 6583 8520.

Special Interests

This section will be devoted to members who have special interests and would like to share or develop these interests with like minded people. Some members will be highly qualified but, please remember, in many cases NO qualifications are necessary. Just a willingness to share, show and discuss an interesting trip, your garden, a collection of stamps, a hobby, tips on how to catch a fish or anything you think might be of interest to others.

Small groups can be conducted in private homes e.g. Book Clubs, Music, Armchair Theatre, Art Appreciation, Play Reading, Travellers Tales, Film Discussion, Board Games - bridge and chess, Cards etc, Sing-alongs....no limit to topics or activities. If the group expands in size and interest then ring Ursula Bruce 6583 8520 and we will see if we can find a suitable venue. Let us know your particular interest and phone number and we will add it to this section.

Stock Market and Share Investing: A number of members have expressed an interest in this topic. Unfortunately, we can't find a Tutor who has expertise in this area to give a course. However, a special interest group would work very well. It is surprising the amount of knowledge that a small group of people have between them. There is also a publication, "Share Investing for Dummies" which could be used as a helpful resource. Also the Australian Stock Exchange web site provides a range of free tutorials. Please register your interest by 'phoning Ursula Bruce 6583 8520.

Special Interest Groups for Term 2:

Beginning Writers: People interested in writing prose or poetry contact Bessie Jennings 6584 5425.

Italian Conversation: Contact Maria Fatarella 6584 2982

Cream On The Cake For Eric Graham's History Group.

In November a number of lucky people will accompany their inspiring group leader on a trip to Norfolk Island. As well as the island's overwhelming natural beauty it has an interesting history as a penal settlement. What a wonderful way to study history. If only it was like this in our good old school days, we would all have graduated with honours.

Letters to the Editor

We encourage our members to write to us with suggestions for improving both this newsletter and, of course our U3A. Longer contributions relating to the activities of our U3A are also welcome.

What a lot of work!

I'd like to mention in this newsletter the enormous amount of preparation Nick Ogbourne did for his 'Web Site' course. Megabytes of examples, software and lesson notes. It must have taken many hours

Brian Syme

Photographs

Del Hatton has sent us some pictures of recent U3a activities, starting with a New Year's Day lunch of U3A ladies



Del Hatton, Ursula Bruce and Carol Surrey recently gave the residents at Bellevue Gardens Retirement Village a talk about our U3A. Del reports it went very well, with terrific feedback from residents. Here are two photos taken on the day:



Marie Thompson and Bryn Smith, from our U3A Australian History Group



President Carol Surrey and a Bellevue Gardens Retirement Village resident

CELEBRATION 2007: U3A ACT's 21ST BIRTHDAY CONFERENCE

This year U3A ACT celebrates its 21st Birthday. From its start in 1986, it has grown into one of the largest U3As, in terms of membership numbers, in Australia. We are inviting U3A members from around Australia and New Zealand to come along and help us celebrate.

Celebration 2007, a celebration and conference, will be held on Thursday 13 and Friday 14 September 2007 at The Hellenic Club, Woden, just before Floriade, Canberra's famous annual floral festival, starts on 15 September.

Celebration 2007 has three broad aims: To celebrate the achievements of U3A ACT over the past 21 years; to provide an opportunity for visiting and local U3A members to share in each others' ideas and experiences; and to help our visitors more fully appreciate Australia's National Capital and its attractions.

The program includes two full morning sessions with guest speakers and discussions, one afternoon for visits by delegates to our national institutions, and the second afternoon to allow us to expose our talented performers in a concert.

On the Thursday night it is planned to hold a dinner at the Hellenic Club where there will be good food and entertainment. The winners of the Short Story competition, to be held in conjunction with the Conference, will be announced at this dinner. We hope to have some of the work of our art groups on display at the Hellenic Club.

Registration for Celebration 2007 is now open. More details of Celebration 2007 and the Registration Form are posted on the U3A ACT web-site: <http://www.u3acanberra.org.au/> For those without Internet access, a registration brochure is available from Pat Davey on 02 6293 3009 or email pattie2@tpg.com.au

Dates to mark in your diaries.

AGM Monday 17th September.

Annual Picnic Day Wednesday 19th Sept.

Newsletter.

Do let the secretary know if you are a member and do not receive your own copy of this newsletter. This newsletter will be published just before the start of each term, and contain information about groups and activities for the term ahead.

Change of address.

Please let the Secretary or Membership Secretary know if you move house and especially if you change your email address

Name Badges.

New members may collect their name badges from the Reference Desk at Port Macquarie Library. Please let John Neilson know if you have not received your badge.

Members are requested to wear their badges when attending any U3A activity.

Again we remind all members to have their contact numbers on the back of their badges in case of an emergency.

In answer to a few enquiries as to why some name cards are hand written, this happens when just one or two name cards are required and it is uneconomical to use a whole sheet of cards to print them from the computer ...mystery solved.

If undelivered return to:

Hastings Valley U3A Inc

PO Box 1210

Port Macquarie

NSW 2444

**SURFACE
MAIL**

Late Enrolments

Late enrolments are welcome in many courses. Please contact the Course Convener to ascertain if he/she is accepting additional members. If you enrol after the course has started you pay only for the rest of the term. Post your cheque to the Treasurer with a covering note. Course Conveners cannot accept money during term.

Tutors please note names cannot be entered on the Attendance Sheet unless accommodation fees have been paid. Money cannot be paid to the group leader during the term. An exception may be made in the case of late enrollees who owe a minimal amount of money, too small for a cheque to be posted to the Treasurer, these people may add their names & how much they owe to the bottom of the Attendance Sheet. The Treasurer will then have a list of who owes what and this can be paid to Ruth Lincoln on the next Enrolment Day. ***Enrolments will not be accepted for new courses prior to the official enrolment day.***

Attention Course Conveners.

You are invited to meet before enrolment at 1:00 pm for coffee and a chat. This will give you an opportunity to meet other course leaders and learn about venues, record keeping and enrolment procedure prior to meeting your prospective group members for next term. Please inform the Secretary, Brian Syms, if you are planning any excursions away from your usual meeting place. Dates & details are required for insurance purposes.

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