

# Hastings Valley U3A Inc

# Newsletter

Volume 3 number 4

Term 4 2007

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**Robert Oakeshott MP**  
**Member for**  
**Port Macquarie**

**PO Box 1210**  
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**NSW 2444**  
**www.hvu3a.org.au**

**President**

Carol Surrey  
6586 1792

**Vice President**

Harry Bryant

**Secretary**

Brian Syms

**Treasurer**

Ruth Lincoln  
6582 0389

**Membership Secretary**

John Neilson  
6586 1529

**Course Coordinator**

Ursula Bruce  
6583 8520

**Publicity**

Del Hatton  
6582 1885

**Member**

Beverley Izard

**Webmaster**

Nick Ogbourne  
6586 1627

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

**Tuesday 16 October  
1.30 pm – 2.30pm**

**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.**

Welcome to Term 4 and our last Newsletter for 2007.

**The AGM.** Thank you to the all the members who attended the AGM. We appreciate your support and input. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee Members for all their hard work throughout the year. Thank you to our Tutors who have so willingly shared their skills and knowledge with us. And to all those members who volunteered their time to help on Enrolment Days and Newsletter 'lick & stick' day, I would like to say that your help is most welcome & most appreciated.

I would also like to thank Beverley Izard, our newest Committee Member, for the time she devoted to reviewing our Constitution and making sure our Constitution complied with the Model Rules for Incorporated Associations, under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1984. The 2007 Constitution was adopted at the AGM and it is now on our website.

A special thank you to Nick Ogbourne our Webmaster, who quietly works throughout the year updating information & maintaining our website.

Those of you who could not attend our AGM please welcome the committee members for the next 12 months:

President..... Carol Surrey  
Vice President ..... Harry Bryant  
Secretary..... Brian Syms  
Treasurer..... Ruth Lincoln  
Course Coordinator... .. Ursula Bruce  
Membership Secretary..... John Neilson  
Publicity officer... .. Delwyn Hatton  
Member: ..... Beverley Izard.

**Membership for 2008.**

Enclosed with this Newsletter is your Membership Application Form for 2008.

Membership fees will remain at \$30 for a single & \$50 per couple.

Please circle the word "Renewal" and write your membership number in the box.

Complete the form, detailing changes to your name, address, phone number and email address. Including your date-of-birth is optional but helpful for statistical purposes. Post this with your cheque or money order to The Treasurer, Hastings Valley U3A Inc., P.O. Box 1210, Port Macquarie before 31st December. Receipts and name cards will be posted to you.

Please note if you have let your membership lapse for a few terms or even a year or more, you will always have the same membership number and you will be counted as a "Rejoiner" and not as a new member.

We really do appreciate the members who renew their membership before the end of the year. It does lighten the workload of the Committee and allows us to plan early for 2008.

**ICE (In Case of an Emergency).** Just a reminder to write your contact name & number on the back of your new 2008 membership card. This means if you be-

come ill or have an accident during a U3A course or excursion we can notify a family member or friend immediately.

**New members in Term 4:** Those who join in Term 4 will be financial members until the end of 2008. They may collect their name tags & lanyards at Port Macquarie Library about two weeks after joining. Financial members will receive their Newsletter in January so please make sure your name is in our database before the 31<sup>st</sup> December this year.

**Accommodation Fees.** All U3As are non-profit organizations. This year the Committee reduced the accommodation fees from \$1 to 50c per hour because our income was sufficient to cover our expenditure. We have money put aside for our future home base and at this stage we are paying our bills. I am making this clear because reducing the accommodation fees does not, in any way, reduce the quality of our courses, In other words I am debunking the myth "that if it costs nothing it is worth nothing". That is simply not true.

**Tutors for 2008.** Prospective Course Conveners and leaders of Special Interest Groups are invited to fill in a Tutors Application Form which can be obtained by ringing Ursula on 6583 8520. Please be an early bird and let the Course Coordinator know your plans so venues can be booked and the course brochure prepared. The deadline for the Course Brochure will be Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2008. If Tutors would like their groups to be included in our publicity campaign, please let Del know on 6582 1885

**Enrolment Time 1:30 -2:30.** The one hour allowed for enrolling in courses has worked very well. If our membership increases and more time is needed to enroll the participants, then the time will be extended. Tutors are requested to be at their table by **1.15 pm** and in view of the shortened enrolment time, tea & coffee will no longer be available.

**Course Information Survey.** This term we are conducting a survey to find out what sort of courses our members would find interesting. Please spare a few minutes to respond to the questionnaire as your feedback is most helpful. If you return it in the same envelope as your Membership Application Form for 2008, we will be sure to get it before the end of the year.

**U3A Picnic.** The weather forecast was for a perfect day with a temperature of 25°C but no one warned us about the cold, cold wind. Nevertheless, a few stal-

wart members huddled together and enjoyed a lively discussion over a picnic lunch. Better luck next year.

**History Group.** This term our History Group is off to Norfolk Island in November. Twenty eight members will fly out of Sydney on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> and return the following Saturday. What a wonderful excursion. No wonder the History class is bursting at the seams. I am sure there will be quite a bit of socialising besides learning on this trip. Our best wishes go with them and we wish them a safe & speedy return.

**Staying Healthy.** Last term, during the long cold winter months, quite a few of our members suffered from coughs, cold, sore throats and influenza. Perhaps some of these diseases could be prevented if all members took their own cups or mugs to their group meetings. Often the shared crockery is not washed thoroughly in hot soapy water and many germs are passed on in this manner. Protect your health and take along your own cup or mug.

**"The Cinema; Year by Year. 1894-2005".** Many thanks to the kind person who donated this wonderful book to one of our group leaders. Charles Harbon found this surprise package on his front door step and has found it extremely useful in his course, The Movie Makers. Your kindness is most appreciated.

### **End The Year With a Laugh**

An elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He finally went to a doctor, and was fitted with excellent new hearing aids. He returned a month later for a checkup, and the doctor said, "Your hearing is perfect! Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again." The gentleman replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family just yet. I still sit around quietly; but, now I listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times already"

To all our members and guest tutors:

**Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year.**

Stay healthy, stay safe, live long and we shall see you all in the New Year.

*Carol Surrey*

### **New Courses for Term 4**

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.

## 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.



This is a photograph of a typical country residence from the early 20th century. It is actually a model constructed from cardboard by a very talented member of our Australian history group - Bryn Smith

*Ruth Lincoln*

## Tutor's Profile: Des Davis

From time to time we intend to publish a profile on one of our tutors. This term I would like to introduce Des Davis. Des is new to our U3A and intends to give a course, "Drama & Life" in Term 4.

After graduating from Sydney University in 1951, Des taught High School in Lismore and Lithgow and then Drama and English at Newcastle Teachers' College. During this time he and wife Faye belonged to several amateur drama groups. In 1970 they, with their four children, moved to Canada where a two year flirtation with the country turned into a ten year love affair. Des taught at Brock University on the Niagara Peninsula and Faye became a professional actor, working for the prestigious Shaw Festival and touring the United States in 1978. Together they founded an award-winning theatre company for young people, Carousel Players, which is still going today ([www.carouselplayers.com](http://www.carouselplayers.com)), and Des turned their experience into a book, Theatre for Young People. In 1980 they grew weary of snow and ice, packed up the family, and returned to Australia. In Wollongong they founded Theatre South, one of six regional theatre companies in NSW. Des also taught at Wollongong University and Faye pursued her acting career. Theatre South became one of the leading professional theatre companies in the state and produced over 100 plays until its unfortunate demise in 2003. Des was awarded an OAM in 1995 for his contribution to theatre and a Writers Guild AWGIE for his support of Australian playwrights. He has recently completed a PhD on Regional Theatre. Des and Faye have four children and seven grandchildren. They have lived in Port Macquarie since May this year, and are enjoying their third age, the best age of all.

We are fortunate indeed that Des & Faye chose to retire to Port Macquarie.

For more information on Des' Course see the Course Brochure.

## Beginning Writers

Our little Special Interest group includes a couple of ex-teachers, a science graduate and ladies who left school at 14 and 15. One actually hadn't learned to read at school at all, and has learned to read & write after she reared her family. We have become a "mutual admiration society" who encourage each other in our learning to write well. We are writing our memoirs, those who wish to; and also dabbling in writing poetry and short stories or articles. The respect and patience we show each other is what makes our group work well, and enables us to accept each other's critical feedback without feeling rejected

*Bessie Jennings*  
6584 5425

## Annual General Meeting 2007

Here are a few pictures taken at our recent AGM:



## 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-a-longs....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.

### Special Interest Groups for Term 4

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

**Tickled Pink:** A group of ladies enjoying tea, coffee & company contact El Rose 6584 6115

## An interesting website

John Neilson suggests members with internet access might be interested in visiting

<http://aboutsensors.com.au/>

This describes itself as 'the number 1 Senior's website and on line community.' As well as a lot of interesting reading, there are links to other sites, and the opportunity to subscribe to a fortnightly newsletter

### Dates to mark in your diaries.

<b>Term 1 2008</b>	<b>Enrolment</b>	Tues 5 Feb
	<b>Start</b>	11 Feb, <b>End</b> 4 April
<b>Term 2 2008</b>	<b>Enrolment</b>	Tues 29 April
	<b>Start</b>	5 May, <b>End</b> 27 June
<b>Term 3 2008</b>	<b>Enrolment</b>	Tues 22 July
	<b>Start</b>	28 July, <b>End</b> 19 Sept
<b>Term 4 2008</b>	<b>Enrolment</b>	Tues 14 October
	<b>Start</b>	20 Oct <b>End</b> 12 December

### 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 asked to come to enrolment by 1:15 pm. 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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