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Hawkesbury Incorporated

Webpage: www.hawkesbury.u3anet.org.au

News from the Office –April 2021

PRESIDENTS REPORT.

What crazy weather we are experiencing at the moment. We don't know how to dress or what to plan or cancel. But whatever, it must be better than what was on offer in 2020 at this time. I feel a cold wet winter is upon us so be prepared. Keep warm (this week) and who knows what next week.

Throughout 2020 a controversial situation has existed between the U3A Network and most other U3A groups and I believe it was caused by a lack of communication and consultation between those involved. The manner of conducting U3A Network relations was completely different to what we have been accustomed to so we proceeded to examine our relationship with them. Three seminars have been held involving the Sydney region which we are a part with Macarthur, Liverpool, Nepean Blue Mountains and friends from Bathurst. The last was hosted by Hawkesbury on the 5th March.

Many things were discussed with each group giving a report on individual problems and an approach to the future was adopted. Nomination forms were completed for positions on the Network Committee, and we have the Secretary and Treasurer within our seminary group both elected unopposed. The ballot for President and Vice President will be held in the coming weeks. We now hope for better things to eventuate regarding our relationship with the Network. Although a lot of the problems are nut and bolt affairs there are many things to be corrected and we look forward to a better future. A report of the matters discussed at the seminar is at our office for you to peruse if you wish.

2021 is here and we are lucky to be operating according to the NEW NORMAL we still have restrictions put upon us but nothing like last year and we will survive.

An office helper's workshop was held on Thursday 11th March. Well organized by Ken Fraser those attending were shown in detail what is involved as an assistant helper. Assisted by Secretary Jeanette Hatch, Treasurer Robin Cavanagh and Class Coordinator Penny Fraser, Ken had organized an activity to be worked on in pairs. This created much fun as well as being practical.

I wish Ken Frazer a happy holiday as he and Pat are off touring for a few months. You will be missed but I am sure a backlog will be awaiting you on your return as an IT man is never out of place.

Keep smiling everyone and if you need someone to talk to come to the office Mon. Wed. Fri. 9am to 12. If you can't make it then ring me as I am only too pleased to talk with you.

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.

GERMAN and JAPANESE classes resume in April and both these groups are low in numbers. Evy Fleming would welcome new class members so if you are interested, please contact the office. Check your Class Calendar for details of day and time.

BASIC BIBLE: Evy has also offered to hold the Basic Bible Class and interested members are requested to contact the office to enrol.

LUNCH CLUB

The Lunch Club started on a positive note, see Bernie's note following:

Just an update for you on the first luncheon at the Archibald hotel Kurrajong Heights. We had four attendees, with several members advising they couldn't attend. So overall I'd say that everyone was accounted for.

Attendees seemed enthusiastic and are looking forward to the rest of the year.

Being the day before Good Friday, the next trip is to the Museum of Fire at Penrith and lunch at the Peachtree Hotel.

Further ideas include Hawkesbury River Boat Postman from Brooklyn, Portland near Lithgow, the Grandview Hotel Wentworth Falls, Tarana Hotel Tarana or even some picnic places such as Mt Wilson.

At the moment, the Lunch Club is not accepting new members but one never knows when a vacancy may occur.

Editor's note: This Club has been organised with a certain amount of travel required. Many interesting pubs and eating places are within a one-or-two hour drive from the Hawkesbury, all worthy of visiting. If you are a participating member you will understand that Bernie must make a booking prior to visiting so an apology for nonattendance is important prior to the day.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE 2020 WRITING COMPETITION PARTICIPANTS.

Despite the disruptions and uncertainties due to Covid 19, nine entries were received for last year's Writing Competition. It was pleasing to see five very good entries in the Poetry Section, a genre that is often daunting for new writers. The entries in the fiction and non-fiction sections were interesting and captured the attention of the judges.

Throughout the year entries will be placed in the U3A Bulletin and there is a link to the web page. U3A members were also invited to outline their experiences with Covid 19 and how it affected them. Six members took up this challenge. These responses, together with an overview from the U3A committee, are being placed into a loose leaf publication.

We would like to acknowledge Henry Betancer, Jan Brown, Denise Doraisamy, Marina Ferns, Denise Lazdans, Donna MacKenzie, Jean Pitkin, Robert Rudkowsky, Anne Smith and Rosie Temple-Smith who all made valuable written contributions last year.

We also invite and encourage members to have a go in this year's writing competition. Details and information packs are available from the office and online. The generous initial donation by Robert Rudkowsky that enables the competition to continue is always greatly appreciated.

The 2021 Writing Competition will close at the end of October. The competition is open to all members. Our Book Reading group and the two Looking at Literature groups may have members prepared to write a book review or two or three!

Ian Biddle, chair of the Writing Competition sub-committee.

Office Roster for April

Monday	Wednesday	Friday
<i>Easter Monday</i>	7 th Meg Shepherd	9 th Anna Crowley
12 th Free	14 th Dimity Lee	16 th Free
19 th Free	21 st Annette Haynes	23 rd Free
26 th Free	28 th Annette Haynes	30 th Rae McCully

Jeanette Hatch
Secretary

Following is an entry in the Poetry Section of the 2020 Writing Competition.

IN MEMORIAM –REMEMBERING THE KOALAS OF KANGAROO ISLAND

Written by Jean Pitkin

Through cindered leaves and grey-brown haze,
I see you standing there,
Bearing the pain of night-hued days
And fire-encrusted air.

You stand with eyes downcast and sad,
Strength gone and all hope lost.
Where is the home that you once had –
Destroyed – and at what cost?

The cost lies there, right at your feet.
He lost the fight, your friend.
No air to breath, no leaves to eat,
In smoke and flames his end.

Beneath the purple-orange skies
And shaky searing sun,
There was no place to shield your eyes,
The was no place to run.

Where have gone your sisters, brothers,
Shrouded in silent pain.
And where too countless others,
We'll never see again?

I cry, Koala bears, for you.
You lost so much. And yet
As colours change, there's life anew
But I will not forget.