

Postal Address:

PO Box 120
RICHMOND NSW 2753
Phone: 4578 2333
Email: u3ahwkby@norwestit.com.au

Office:

Rear of Hawkesbury Skills
23 Bosworth St
RICHMOND

Opening hours

Mon: 9:00am to 12:00pm
Wed: 9:30am to 12:00pm
Fri: 9:30am to 12:00pm

Hawkesbury Incorporated

Webpage: www.hawkesbury.u3anet.org.au

News from the Office – June 2021

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

We have experienced some very cold nights but I hope you are taking time to enjoy the sun during the day.

Living in the New Normal does mean a few changes to our lives. As our classes continue to meet successfully we are still required to social distance and clean tables and chairs. Now that the kitchen is once again available at the Skill's Centre, one class has decided that each member will take their own mug and save using and washing the Centre's mugs. This is a very good idea and I encourage other groups to do the same. We are often tempted to just rinse a cup under a tap rather than use detergent in hot water.

We are mid way through our U3A year, a year with a difference when membership has dropped by a third and a few classes did not return. The best way to increase membership is to spread the word, which was a finding in the Survey that was taken in 2019.

Not only membership needs to grow but new classes to offer members would assist in keeping the spirit of U3A alive. If you or someone you know has an interest you/they would be prepared to share let us know. Our Class Coordinator, Penny Fraser, is the person to contact

Two Principles of U3A are:

“Those who learn shall teach and those who teach shall learn and there will be no distinction between the two.”

“The emphasis shall be on learning for the love of it and shall include an emphasis on the values of making things and improving skills of all kinds.”

Once again, keep smiling, keep warm and continue to enjoy your activities. If you have a problem please let me know.

Geoff Hatch JP

President

VALE Agnes Barbara

Born Leong Chooi Oeng, May 1937 in Malaysia, Agnes Barbara died on the 28th April; a lady whose achievements would fill this Newsletter. In 1963, as Sister Frances, Agnes first taught in a Convent Secondary School in Malaysia as a missionary trained teacher.

In 1968 Agnes graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Liverpool then to become a qualified secondary teacher, she only needed to complete a one year teacher training course from the University of London. This same year, Sister Frances graduated from the University of Liverpool in Physics, Pure and Applied Mathematics as well as training in Religious Education.

Her career as a teacher and a Principal took her to 1974 when she was able to migrate to Australia. In 1976 she married Joe Barbara and continued her teaching. 1978 was bitter sweet, with the birth and death of their daughter Maria Katrina then later that year; both Joe and Agnes were naturalized by the Mayor of Blacktown, John Aquilina.

Joe passed away in 2005.

Agnes joined U3A Hawkesbury in 2013, happily travelling from Blacktown to enjoy her chosen classes. Her move to a larger unit at Northmead did not stop her enthusiasm and she continued to drive to classes. Her biggest love was the French Conversation Class, a symbol of which was on the book marks distributed to those attending her funeral, this being a picture of the Eifel Tower.

Agnes was also a talented artist, a sample of her art was also on the bookmark.

With her gentle, quiet, loving and happy nature, Agnes made friends easily, especially in U3A. Our condolences have been sent to her extended family.

VALE Ellen Manning

Ellen Manning's funeral notice read "An extraordinary woman who left her mark on her family and community". Ellen died on the 16th May.

Moving to the Hawkesbury in the mid 1970s, Ellen was quick to involve herself in the community. Previously she was a pottery teacher at TAFE; pottery being one of her many loves. Ellen became the Hawkesbury's second Community Art's Officer, taking over the role from Colleen Dibley (Haines). In Colleen's words "Ellen was a great supporter of the Arts in the district."

Independent, a feminist with firm ideas, a quirky nature, Ellen organised events, bus trips to musical events, assisted groups to gain grants and was instrumental in finding office space for U3A Hawkesbury in what was the Senior Citizens' Centre in Richmond; just a few of Ellen's achievements.

Ellen joined U3A in 2002.

With her love of music, she became the Tutor of our 'a capella Singing Group', the members of which thoroughly enjoyed their fun times singing and playing the many unusual instruments Ellen had collected in her travels.

Being struck down with a type of Meningococcal some years ago, life became very difficult but Ellen's determined nature carried her through the many trials and near death experiences. Our condolences have been sent to her son Michael and family at this sad time.

CLASS NEWS

UWS COMPUTER CLASS: Alex Wylie Atmore has been in contact with the good news that Western Sydney University is allowing **our Computer Classes to restart. In Ken Fraser's absence, Dianne Thompson will be the convener** and many who attend these sessions will be pleased to meet up with her once again. Dianne will be in touch with members who are enrolled and will welcome more enrolments. The dates are **Thursday 1st, 8th and 15th July 2021, 12.30 – 3.30pm.**

A message from Alex, topics so far:

Session 1: general overview, reminders on the basics (to ensure everyone's able to participate in sessions 2 and 3)

Session 2: internet messaging, online collaboration tools, videoconferencing tools (seeing as we're all going to be using them for a while longer). Ideally, students would bring a device (smartphone, laptop, etc) with a camera for this one, but we can work around it if not.

Session 3: finding good information online (i.e. "I need to find out about [x], how do I know this website is legit?") + some PowerPoint.

U3A PUBLICATION. Would the author of 'Boiling the Billy on the Mudgee Road' please contact the office on 4578 2333 or email u3ahwkby@norwestit.com.au as Dianne Thompson is compiling the publication to contain items from the 2019 Writing Competition (the Valerie Tabet Memorial Award), entries for the 2020 Writing Competition and the contributions from members relating to Covid 19 experiences etc.

ST. PETERS CROQUET PLAYERS are offering U3A members a course of six lessons in Croquet starting on Saturday 5th June at 9.30 a.m.

We have an experienced player, John McDowell, who will be taking the classes and he will take you through an introductory course that will have you playing this tactical and challenging game on day one.

To register your interest and for further information please contact Carole Boendermaker on 0421018223.

Office Roster for June.

Monday	Wednesday	Friday
	2 nd Annette Haynes	4 th Mangal Prabhu
7 th Donna MacKenzie	9 th Annette Haynes	11 th Anna Crowley
14 th Donna MacKenzie	16 th Dimity Lee	18 th Mangal Prabhu
21 st Donna MacKenzie	23 rd Annette Haynes	25 th Mangal Prabhu
28 th Donna MacKenzie	30 th Annette Haynes	

Jeanette Hatch
Secretary

Following is an entry in the Poetry section of the 2020 Writing Competition: Thank you Denise.

Breath

Denise Doraisamy

Breath steals in and out – duel edged.

The bellows hiss and push, move the muscles, make the sentient heave.

Busy lungs hinge on exactitude – effort,

On the delicate shoosh and wheeze from the mysterious hand that gives and takes.

Then silently it seeps away – no fuss – no explanation.

The vacant form is hushed – the in and out complete.

The timing is celestial – profound.



Celebrating our Culture

NAIDOC week will be celebrated from the 4 – 11th July 2021.

The Theme for NAIDOC week this year is heal country.

Read more on the NAIDOC website.



Old Time & New Vogue Dancing

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Richmond School of Arts

26 W/Market Street

Quickstep

Fully Air Conditioned!

Waltz

FRI. 4th JUNE

FRI. 18th JUNE

1pm – 4pm

Foxtrot

Cha Cha

Admission \$10

Includes Afternoon Tea

Pride of
Erin

Enquiries 4572 5773

Tango

Barn Dance