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

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## News from the Office – February 2022

### President's Message

Welcome back to another year which we hope will be better than the last two. We still face challenges but can only move forward as best we can keeping in mind that the Covid Omicron strain is highly contagious. Our committee is committed to keeping you as protected as we possibly can but it is up to you to do the right thing and follow correct procedures.

I hope that many of you were able to share the festive season with loved ones. Not seeing family members can be difficult, especially those of you who live alone. It was good to hear that some were able to travel to Queensland to visit family. It was also good to hear of overseas family members coming home for a long overdue visit.

Our AGM is coming up on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January. If you have not attended one before, you can be assured that social distancing is not a problem as the venue is very large. I hope to see as many as possible attend to welcome new committee members and farewell our treasurer, Robin Cavanagh, our secretary, Jeanette Hatch and our publicity officer, Ian Biddle, all of whom have done a great job. Only vaccinated people are able to attend, please QR code in on arrival or record your name and contact number in writing on the form provided. At our recent Committee Meeting it was decided that no food or drink would be provided, as previously advertised, so we ask that you bring your own bottle of water. This is another committee decision to keep you all safe and healthy. Masks are mandatory to be worn within the building. Do not attend if you are symptomatic.

Alan Conradi and other members are offering their help to any member who is in need of assistance under Covid restrictions. This can be arranged by ringing Alan on 0402 055 148. Assistance will be on hand taking all safety precautions.

Keep smiling and keep well. If you are lonely and need someone to talk to, ring me. My number is 0413 805 595.

**Geoff Hatch J P**  
**President**

### CLASS NEWS

For all the bike riders in the Hawkesbury, especially U3A members, Tony Evans is interested in presenting a three to four week class on “**An introduction to the electric bike**”. This course will provide you with information needed before acquiring an E-bike. If you or any of your friends are interested, please contact the office by phone during office hours or by email. It is proposed that this would be held in the Skill's Centre.

**CLASSES** that meet at Hawkesbury Skill's and usually have a tea/coffee break are able to continue this with tea bags, coffee, sugar & milk once again being provided BUT please bring your own mug. Classes participating in this are requested to donate \$2 per member toward the cost. This does not have to be collected on a regular basis. The office will soon inform you if or when more donations are required.

**Mask wearing indoors is mandatory** and social distancing is to be observed. Hand sanitiser is provided for your use. Please do not attend a class if you have any symptoms at all.

## **2022 MEMBERSHIP AND CLASSES**

Membership and Class Enrolments have been arriving regularly, although many have been received without the requested copy of a vaccination certificate. This has caused a delay in the processing of membership which may have resulted in members missing out on one or more of their chosen classes. Covid vaccination is a condition of membership. Please have your booster shot as soon as you are able.

Walking for Pleasure, Art with Deidre Morrison, Music Revolution of the 60s and the classroom segment of Birds of the Hawkesbury already have the full complement of members. Interested members may place their names on a waiting list for any of these classes and will be contacted by the Tutor if a vacancy arises.

Our Class Co-Ordinator, Penny Fraser, has been working overtime to complete the class enrolments that have been received so far and have the Class Rolls ready for our February start. It is understood if members decide not to attend under the present circumstances or if Tutors/Convenors decide to delay holding their class as it is a very concerning time.

## **OTHER NEWS**

**Hawkesbury Skill's Inc.** also have a policy of not accepting non vaccinated people within the building. This decision has seen the closing of the Boxing Club after 40 years of operation. The building has reverted back to its original name 'The Stables' and has been leased to Richmond Players Inc. who will use it for much needed storage of scenery flats and other equipment.

**The Men's Shed** is still in residence but is looking forward to their new building that is in the process of being built at Mulgrave. They will be missed when they move but this is not expected to take place until at least the middle of 2022. We have a good working relationship with the members and wish them well as they continue with their immense amount of weekly work as well as their preparations to move.

**New members** attending classes at Hawkesbury Skills, please be aware that the two reserved parking places are just that – reserved. One is for the U3A office secretary/administrator and the other one is for River of Life Church. These are part of the rental agreements for both organisations. U3A administration continues to be done outside office hours.

## **SECRETARY'S MESSAGE**

After a few years as a committee member followed by seventeen years as secretary, I am about to hand the reins over and take a back seat in our wonderful organisation. I have enjoyed every minute of my time in office and no doubt will miss the interaction with the people who have enjoyed or continue to enjoy their time with us. You are all special and this makes U3A Hawkesbury the happy and friendly organisation for which it is known. I thank everyone, from those who give their time to share their skills, those who have assisted in the office, my fellow committee members and most of all, to you the members who have brightened my life immeasurably.

I had a break from writing the monthly Newsletter for a few months but have taken this opportunity to write my very last one. Age catches up to us all, I took this task on at the age of 65 and have now officially reached old age! How time flies!

I wish the new committee the very best, especially under the difficult challenges we are forced to cope with at the present time. We have joined our forebears in making pandemic history albeit we have more sophisticated health care when it is possible to access it! *(I won't get political!)*

God bless you and keep you safe and well to enjoy 2022. Thank you.

**Jeanette Hatch**

*Residents of a local over 50's village were rather surprised when one fellow resident stated that she knew and understood why Novak Djokovic was unvaccinated. When asked the reason, she replied "Because his name is No vac!"*