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Fri: 9:00am to 12:00pm  
Webpage: [www.hawkesbury.u3anet.org.au](http://www.hawkesbury.u3anet.org.au)

*Hawkesbury Incorporated*

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We acknowledge that the Darug people were the original custodians of the land on which we meet.

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## News from the Office – March 2022

### President's Message

It's good to welcome everyone back to our U3A year with classes at full swing.

Some are full and some have vacancies at this time. It was great to welcome 33 members to our AGM and to elect a full Committee.

New members are Louise McKean, Julie Wilson and Mangal Prabhu.

We farewelled Ian Biddle from the committee, but he plans to go on as a Class Tutor as does Jan Cousin. Robin Cavanagh retired as Treasurer and of course Jeanette Hatch retired after 17 years as Secretary. Dimity Lee resigned from the Secretary position due to personal reasons. Louise McKean is the Treasurer, Mangal Prabhu is the catering officer and Ken Fraser is the office coordinator who will put everything in its proper order. We are fortunate that Rosemary Ellis has nominated to join the Committee.

It is important to remind everyone that your Covid Booster shot is due and a requirement for membership and to attend classes.

We are planning a Welcome Back Luncheon on the 8<sup>th</sup> April and our famous raffles will be resumed on that date.

Remember, Keep smiling and enjoy your U3A year with all your new or old friends.

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

### WELCOME BACK LUNCHEON

We are really looking forward to holding our Welcome Back Luncheon, especially given that we have not been able to get together in a large social setting for two years. The Luncheon will be held on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> April, 11.30am for 12.30pm at the Hawkesbury Masonic Centre, 731 George Street, South Windsor, in between Parklea Sand & Gravel and the Seven Eleven Service Station.

Tickets are now on sale in the office at a cost of \$25 per person. The meal will be a baked dinner and dessert. Any dietary requirements **MUST** be given when purchasing tickets as this cannot be arranged on the day. Numbers are limited to a total of 80 people with tables of 8. There will be raffles on the day so please remember to bring some cash for the purchase of raffle tickets. As usual, we are accepting donations of good quality items as raffle prizes, which can be taken to the office. It is a fun time and a good chance to meet other members, so hurry and buy your tickets before they are all sold.

## **NEW CLASS: LAW FOR SENIORS**

Barry Wall will be running two sessions of his Law for Seniors course again this year. The first of these is starting on Monday, 21 March and will finish on Monday, 23 May. These dates cover ten weeks because of Easter Monday and Anzac Day but it's actually an eight week course from 10am – 12pm each Monday. The course is held at the North Richmond Community Centre.

If you would like to attend this course please contact the U3A Hawkesbury office either by phone (4578 2333) or come in and say hello. The office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. If you have already completed an Enrolment Form for other classes it isn't necessary to complete another one to join Law for Seniors.

## **FROM THE OFFICE:**

- We have a pair of spectacles that were left in the office (gold and tortoise-shell). If they might be yours, please come and collect.
- All Tutors/Convenors volunteer their time and put in many hours of preparation for our benefit. If you have enrolled in a class and decide not to continue it is a small task to contact and inform the relevant Tutor. This is an important way to show respect to the Tutors and appreciation for the great work that they do for us. A Tutors contact list is attached.
- Have you renewed your membership for 2022? There is still time to renew but this is the last Newsletter that will be sent to non-financial members.
- 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.

## **CLASS NEWS**

We are continuing to monitor the changing requirements regarding COVID restrictions. It remains a condition of membership of U3A Hawkesbury that you must be fully vaccinated. This is also a requirement for entering Hawkesbury Skills and other venues that we use. Mask wearing indoors and social distancing is still of great benefit to prevent the spread of the disease, and hand sanitiser is provided for your use. Most importantly, please do not attend a class if you have any COVID symptoms at all.

## **LUNCH CLUB**

As the first class of the year this was pretty ad hoc as there was only a few days between the AGM and this event to better organise things. Whilst it wasn't a full roll up for the first class with 4 of 7 class members attending, the 3 absent did provide notice.

After suitable introductions we all discussed what we wanted to achieve in terms of venues and activities. The expectation is that this will evolve during the year as members become comfortable and familiar with the format.

Similar to previous years we need to be able to balance the needs of those who aren't comfortable travelling too far and would prefer to stay closer to home versus those who are more adventurous. As in years past I expect this will evolve as people get to know each other and are happy to car pool etc. Personally I can't see this being an issue assuming everyone is happy to bend a bit but it did come up during the discussions. This is no surprise as it is always raised very early in the year as people mark out their boundaries/limitations/expectations.

Obviously I'll try to manage or ensure that everyone's needs are met, but the simple reality is venues are decided by a majority vote of attendees.

Some attendees seem to have a view that lunch club is simply about a social lunch, rather than the wider history of the venue or immediate area. The intent of lunch club is to meet all 3, ie history, social and an outing to a venue you'd not normally attend. Again this is a common misunderstanding especially for the first couple of outings. The idea is to push yourself and experience new things, which ultimately is what makes it enjoyable and interesting.

Discussions turned to the next meeting in March and it was agreed that the Kurrajong Heights Hotel, now known as the Archibald Hotel, would be a suitable venue.

### **GARDEN RAMBLE**

Garden ramble on 14th February was at 79 Mitchell Park Road, it was a beautiful morning ,we had a good first time roll up and everyone was glad to see each other again. Sue Robertson has offered her garden on the 14th March in Nelson, and we will fill the rest of the year with the beauty of nature. Regards Brenda

### **LAWN BOWLS**

It has been a pleasant welcome return to our band of return bowlers and a welcome to our new members. The weather has been great and enjoyable games were played. It was quite hot for our last game but we finished ten minutes early and retired to the coolness of the air-conditioned club house for morning tea and a debriefing. Ian & Dieter.



### **ETHICS**

A range of interesting discussions were held during our first session back. These included; is there a place for chivalry in a gender equal world, is there a definitive guide for doing the "right thing" and can we legislate for freedom? We also examined the ideas of the eighteenth century philosopher, Mary Wollstonecraft. Next month we look at issues such as, is there a place for anger, what are the features of a genuine apology and what are the ways people acquire knowledge and how do we deal with relatives and friends who believe in things that we strongly disagree with. As background, we will examine the difference between acquiring knowledge through experience (empiricalism) or by reasoning (rationalism). Ian Biddle

### **TUESDAY TABLE TENNIS**

It has been a fun start to the year for the Tuesday table tennis group. We have welcomed the return of existing members and welcomed aboard a few new members. Although at times the weather has been a bit hot it is always a great afternoon. At times when the weather has gotten too hot we have turned on the fan which makes the balls go in interesting directions and adds a bit more challenge to the game. Allan King



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF JEANETTE HATCH THAT WAS PRESENTED AT THE 2022 AGM BY DIANE THOMPSON

I felt honoured when Geoff asked me to give you a synopsis of Jeanette's life.

Jeanette's story, before any of us knew her, was just what one would expect from a person of such inarguable talent. She was born, learnt to do all the usual things, including schooling and music lessons, then probably the day came when she was told to start earning a living.

A talented pianist and singer, she taught privately (for many years), and also class music at St Monica's Catholic school in Richmond. She was engaged as a Year 1 teacher also, which she did for four years, as well as continuing with music classes and school musicals. She went to Teachers' College as a mature-age student to gain the appropriate qualifications, then taught in public schools, including the school at Castlereagh.

Jeanette played the organ at the Uniting Church for 12 years, and in 1970 joined the Richmond Players, where she both directed and performed in various productions. She was secretary for many years, and also founded 'Richmond Junior Players', a group which is still in existence.

Her first stage appearance was as Aunt Trina, she of the foreign accent, in 'I Remember Mama', which was directed by Karen Hungerford. In 'Sweeney Todd the Barber', directed by Kevin Rozzoli, she played Tobias.

As a 15-year-old she portrayed Anna Frank — in the 'Diary of Anna Frank'. Sorry, reverse that. Jeanette was 43. It was Anna Frank who was fifteen years old. Jeanette refused to have her hair dyed for the part, and insisted on applying spray every performance because it could be combed out afterwards.

Unless you are sitting near Jeanette at a funeral or some other function, you might not realise what a beautiful voice she has. Singing was the most important thing to her. In 'My Fair Lady' she played Eliza Doolittle, and she played Maria in 'Sound of Music' — eat your heart out, Julie Andrews!

She played midweek golf with the Richmond Ladies until it proved too much for her health, at which stage she took up Lawn Bowls. Eventually that also became impossible, but *nil desperandum!* Nothing was going to beat her, as proved by the Tai Chi Shibashi classes she runs on Monday mornings — when Covid permits. She also loves gardening, even to the extent of eating some of the results of her labours.

Jeanette joined U3A in 1997, and was fortunate enough to be able to get into Deidre Morrison's Art Class. She joined the Committee in 2004, and in 2005 she took over from Ellie Engelen as Secretary, when Ellie relinquished that position.

Just to give you an idea of our Office history:

- ❖ Until we finally had funds enough to purchase a photocopier in 1998, we were dependent on contacts who were able and prepared to do photocopying for us. Once we were the proud owners, the said photocopier resided on the dining-room table, first of Judith Lewis, then later of Ellie Engelen, until we were allotted office space in the Richmond Senior Citizens' Centre.
- ❖ Until a new Committee member, Monica Wood, began to produce printed mailing labels the secretary of the day had to address all envelopes for newsletters etc by hand.
- ❖ Until 2001, when we obtained funding from Hawkesbury Council to purchase a computer and printer, all newsletters, class calendars, correspondence, membership details etc were done either on a typewriter or by hand. Once we did have a computer, the secretary (Ellie Engelen at that time) had to learn to drive it, which was no mean feat!

All this time our membership was increasing — 100, 200, and then more than 300 members.

Gradually, after Jeanette became Secretary in 2005, she and her helpers continued, and completed, the computerising of records etc which Ellie had begun. The newsletter and class calendar which had been coming out every two months metamorphosed into two publications. A formal version, 'From the Office' and the class calendar are now emailed or snail-mailed each

month. Until she hung up her HB pencil at the end of 2020, Ellie continued to produce her chatty social newsletter (named 'Essentially Ellie' at Jeanette's suggestion), every two months.

In 2010 the name badges which had always been issued to each new member were replaced by colour-coded combined Name Badge/Membership Cards, which all members are exhorted to wear to all U3A activities. If you have not already received your card for 2022, rest assured it will arrive **very soon**.

When the U3A Network annual conference was held in Sydney in 2011, Geoff (as Network Treasurer), Jeanette, Roy Courtney and I did the registrations, name badges and showbags for the 200 attendees.

In 2003 Jeanette took over the Australian History Class which Lorna Campbell wanted to relinquish after teaching it for eight years. From 2003 on, as well as talks given monthly she organised various historical outings, including a Melbourne Cup Luncheon and History Talk in Novembers, at least one over-night trip, and even a conducted tour of the Historic Rookwood Necropolis, which is one of the world's largest cemeteries, and also one of Australia's oldest burial grounds — plenty of places to sit down if one became tired.

Over the years Jeanette has not only run classes or groups of her own, but has filled in in all sorts of ways when various Tutors and Convenors have needed to be replaced either temporarily or completely, both before and after she became a Committee Member.

These include **Publicity, U3A Online**, and on several occasions she filled in as the **Discussion Group Convenor**. She continues to conduct her own class, Tai Chi Shibashi, every Monday.

In 1991 Bonny Choufour joined Nepean U3A, and began a Classical Music Appreciation class, 'Appreciation of Music: the language without barriers'. This was one of the classes delivered in Richmond from the inception of U3A in the area, even though at that stage we were a part of Nepean U3A. Bonny's Classical Music Appreciation class continues to this day, although there has been a progression of Tutors for various reasons. During 2006 Bonny discontinued her class due to failing health, and Monica Wood took the class over. Monica and her family moved to Perth in 2016, and David Harper took the class over.

Sadly, David passed away in November 2021, at much the same time as Monica passed away in Perth.

As is the custom in our U3A, someone has stepped up to keep this class going, and it is our Jeanette! We know that this class, which has been active since time immemorial, will be in excellent hands!

Jeanette has been an exceptional Secretary, and will still be around to support the new members of the Committee, especially the new secretary, to help in the office, and to give advice when it is requested.

In conclusion, may I just quote a few lines from Thomas Spencer's bush poem, 'How M'Dougall Topped the Score':

***And as Molongo's beaten men exhausted lay around,  
We raised M'Dougall shoulder-high, and bore him from the ground.  
We bore him to M'Ginniss's, where lunch was ready laid,  
And filled him up with whisky-punch, for which Molongo paid.  
We drank his health in bumpers, and we cheered him three times three,  
And when Molongo got its breath, Molongo joined the spree.***

Of course that would be going a little too far, but let us join in three enthusiastic cheers for Jeanette.



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**FRI. 18<sup>th</sup> March**

**1pm – 4pm**

*Foxtrot*

**Admission \$10**

*Cha Cha*

**Includes Afternoon Tea**

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**\*Double Vaccination required\***

*Pride of  
Erin*

*Tango*

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Note: This activity is not part of the U3A Hawkesbury Program