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Wed: 9:00am to 12:00pm  
Fri: 9:00am to 12:00pm  
Webpage: [www.u3ahawkesbury.org.au](http://www.u3ahawkesbury.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 – May 2022

### President's Message

What strange times we live in. Just as we begin to recover along comes another flood. Three times in one year is a bit too much to handle but we are getting over it.

The last flood effected our planned Luncheon with so many cancellations due to people being cut off by the recent flood number 3. The Luncheon went ahead with the kind assistance of Liz Anderson who quickly called people to request they come to the Luncheon to fill vacant seats. Thanks Liz, for your help. The meal provided by Peter and Linda Morrissey was excellent as usual and enjoyed by everyone. Our traditional raffles were also a success, and the reduced number of prizes allowed the raffle event to be greatly reduced in time. I'd like to thank the following people who assisted in the setting up of the hall. Penny Fraser, Rae McCully, Mangal Prabhu, Donna McKenzie and Jeanette Hatch. Our catering officer Mangal Prabhu is recovering from a shoulder operation but came along to assist us. I thank the clean-up crew, Campbell and Liz Anderson, Penny Fraser, Rae McCully, and anyone else I may have forgotten. Thank you, Alan Conradie and Ken Fraser who assisted with the transportation of our equipment to the South Windsor Centre on the Wednesday.

I have had thoughts about future gatherings and perhaps a Club Visit may be more appropriate as then we don't have to set up, clean up or anything else. Just get up and walk away. Please give this some thought and let me know what you think.

If you have any suggestions that your committee should be made aware of let me know as we begin a brand-new year and could tolerate some possible changes but remember if it's not broken don't fix it. It's good to see you all and your happy smiling faces. Let's give this U3A year our fullest attention and I hope to see you all soon.

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

### NEWS FROM THE OFFICE:

- **Office Helpers** Thank you to the new office helpers who have joined the roster. There are still a few vacancies on our monthly roster so if you would like to join the team, please email the Office Coordinator, Ken Fraser, at [u3ahwkby@norwestit.com.au](mailto:u3ahwkby@norwestit.com.au) or phone the office during office hours on 4578 2333.
- **Computer Class.** This class is held at the Richmond Campus of Western Sydney University (Building G6, room G6.G.03), Mid-year/Winter session and End-of-year/Summer session, during the university breaks. We have been advised that the Mid-year session will be held on Thursday July 7<sup>th</sup> and July 14<sup>th</sup> from 12.30-3.30 pm, since the University's schedule has only these two weeks outside of terms and/or exam times. We shall not know the dates and times for the Summer Session until much later in the year. Dianne Thompson will send more details to those students who have applied for this class. **There are still vacancies** in this course, which can be booked through our Office. For more information please feel free to contact Dianne (9627 3447).

- **Tutors** 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.
- **Tea and Coffee** Classes that meet at Hawkesbury Skills and usually have a tea/coffee break are able to continue this with tea bags, coffee, sugar & milk once again being provided **BUT** if possible please bring your own mug. Classes participating in this are requested to donate \$2 per member toward the cost.

## A Participant's view of the WELCOME BACK LUNCHEON

The U3A Hawkesbury tradition of luncheons (which had usually been held twice a year) sadly had to be discontinued during 2020-21 because of the Covid pandemic. So it was with eager anticipation, tinged with some degree of apprehension, that I attended the Welcome Back Luncheon. Unfortunately another Horseman of the Apocalypse decided to throw a spanner in the works, as renewed flooding prevented a number of the potential attendees from getting to the venue. However, after some last-minute recruitment of other members and friends, about 38 people were present to enjoy this special occasion. It was great to be able to catch up with friends from the various classes I am associated with, some members I don't see very often and people I had never met before, and there was a lot of happy chatter during the lunch. I left the venue feeling that there were a lot of people I didn't get a chance to talk to – maybe next time!

As in the past, a tasty meal was provided by caterers Peter and Linda Morrissey. A long-time feature of the luncheon has been the raffle – lots of prizes donated by members were raffled and many of those present went home with mementos of the occasion. There were also several lucky door prizes. All in all it was a very relaxed and happy occasion, and we can only hope that circumstances will be such that the regular luncheons will now be back on U3A Hawkesbury's agenda once again. I am sure everyone would join me in thanking President Geoff Hatch and all those who helped for organising this enjoyable event. **Jean Pitkin.**

## CLASS NEWS

We continue to monitor the 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.**

## WINTER BOOSTER

For those people who have already had 3 Covid shots ATAGI is now recommending an additional booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. This will increase vaccine protection before winter for all adults aged 65 years and older.

## ETHICS

Despite the floods we were still able to have our April meeting. We examined issues such as; steps in a sincere apology, the value of anger, truth in political advertising, and whether political assassinations are ever justified.

In May some of the areas to be covered are: toxic positivity ( is it okay to be negative sometimes,) ethical fashion, do we become less cautious verbally as we age, how do we treat friends and relatives who do not believe what we believe to be true, and examples of electoral disinformation. **Ian Biddle**

## LUNCH CLUB

Lunch Club met at the Archibald Hotel at Kurrajong Heights on Wednesday 6 April. Weather seems to be a feature of every one of our activities so far this year and this one was no different with rain, wind, fog, limited visibility and slippery road conditions heading up/down Bellbird Hill a common complaint. As you can see from the photo the attendees had a great time and enjoyed great meals, conversations and cold drinks. This was followed by a quick walk in the rain around the hotel which included a history lesson about the once grand Archibald Hotel. **Bernard Stever.**



## FRIDAY TABLE TENNIS

Our lovely group just keeps on enjoying the fun and laughter each Friday - not to mention the games! This is the first year ever I haven't had a waiting list for the group - I must be losing my touch! **Margaret Vickery.**

## CLASSICAL MUSIC APPRECIATION

The first session for this group was a general discussion on what the members' interests were. This was followed by listening to and discussing a Concerto and a Symphony.

Our second session was not held due to flooding but for April we looked at the life of Beethoven interspersed with listening to compositions. The first was one he wrote at the age of 12, which was a variation on a march by Ernst Dressler. This was brilliant for a 12 year old. Next, we discussed the Rhondo form and listened to Rhondo in C Opus 51 No.1. Our final choice was a Bagatelle, also in Rhondo form and one everyone is familiar with, Fur Elise. Fur Elise did not come to light until 40 years after Beethoven's death.

To complete the morning, we listened to and watched Danial Barenboim play Beethoven's Sonata Pathetique. The skill and speed with what appears to be rather fat fingers in his older years, was amazing to watch. **Jeanette Hatch.**

## FRENCH BEGINNERS AND FRENCH CONTINUERS

I had decided last year that I would reduce the contact hours for my two French classes for 2022. The disruption of the past two years plus feeling the need to make things a little easier for myself led me to change both groups from twice to once a month and this has proved beneficial to me. Both classes have experienced new enrolments and withdrawals but are now going ahead quite well.

The Beginners class remains very small, but the dedicated few, who are attempting this class for the third year in a row, are making progress. The early lessons have now been repeated but I am assured that this will only benefit the learning process.

The Continuers class are this year looking at my mother's BBC workbook – Rendez-vous à Chaviray – the story of a fictional French town and its inhabitants. This has been interspersed with some vocabulary building exercises. The recent floods and the Welcome Back Luncheon necessitated changes to the scheduled classes in April, but hopefully from now on we will follow the advertised program, namely the first Friday of the month for French Continuers and the second Friday of the month for French Beginners. **Jean Pitkin**

## BIRDS OF THE HAWKESBURY FIELD TRIP

Our Field Trip this month was to the Buralow Fire Trail from Bowen Mountain, a first trip up the mountain for many in the group. In overcast weather, we walked along the trail inviting birds of any description to show themselves but to no avail. We walked a little way down the hill but not a bird in sight, but we did see some really nice scenery. There were a number of different wildflowers to look at closely as compensation. But still no birds!



Back at the top where we had started the walk, we spotted some mistletoe patches in flower, growing on a few eucalypt trees. Finally we saw a number of bird species feeding on the flowers including a Grey Fantail and a Brown Thornbill, photos below courtesy of Linda Ferguson. We then travelled to Bowen Mountain Park for refreshments, and a chat. We had not seen a lot of birds but we all agreed that it had been a very pleasant walk. **Ken Fraser**



## VALE ROY COURTNEY

Roy Courtney passed away on the 20<sup>th</sup> April after suffering ill health for some months. Roy and Nancye began their involvement with U3A Hawkesbury in 2003 and it was not too long before Roy came on the committee. Following his service in the RAAF, Roy became a Church of Christ minister, leading congregations in Adelaide, Hobart, South Windsor and Richmond.

He and Nancy began tutoring in Basic Bible, which successfully ran for many years. He also served as Vice-President for some years and took over the role of Webmaster. Both Roy and Nancye enjoyed their participation in many classes over the years of their membership including Australian History and Travellers' Tales. As age caught up, Roy concentrated on his Church work until the last few months of his life. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Courtney family.

**Jeanette Hatch**



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