



## U3A Hawkesbury Inc.



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### Opening hours

Mon: 9:00am to 12:00pm  
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 – September 2022

## President's Message

As my health has improved and after several appeals to return to the Committee, I have agreed to return as President of Hawkesbury U3A.

I thank Rae McCully for her Presidential input during my absence and the rest of the Committee for their tireless efforts during this period.

News from the office will contain the current news regarding our U3A activities and I hope to see you all soon.

Cheers for now.

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

## NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

- **Tutors and Class Convenors:** If you would like to report on your U3A activity and help promote it in the next Newsletter, please let us know in the U3A office before the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Also if you have new members joining your class please ensure the office has been notified.
- 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.**

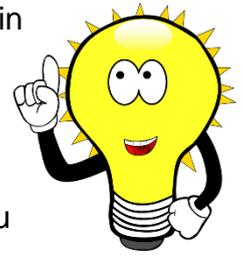
## Office Roster for September 2022

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
29 <sup>th</sup> Aug – Meg & Chris	31 <sup>st</sup> Aug – Ken & Jill	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept – Rae & Mangal
5 <sup>th</sup> Sept – Chris & Ken	7 <sup>th</sup> Sept – Ken & Anne	9 <sup>th</sup> Sept – Jan & Annette
12 <sup>th</sup> Sept – Meg & Donna	14 <sup>th</sup> Sept – Ken & Robin	16 <sup>th</sup> Sept – Rae & Mangal
19 <sup>th</sup> Sept – Annette & Chris	21 <sup>st</sup> Sept – Ken & Anne	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept – Marilyn & Penny
26 <sup>th</sup> Sept – Meg & Donna	28 <sup>th</sup> Sept – Ken & Jill	30 <sup>th</sup> Sept – Rae & Mangal

*If you would like to help out in the Office, please call us on 4578 2333 during Office hours or send an email.*

## Plans underway for 2023 – Do you have ideas to share?

Each year in November, we invite members to renew their membership and enrol in classes for the following year. We are always keen to expand the number of options that we offer our members. Do you have any ideas about new classes or activities that you would like to see offered, or more importantly, for which you would like to be the tutor or convenor? Or perhaps you might know someone who would like to take this on. If you are not sure what taking on a class involves or you are a bit nervous about what it would mean for you, we are able to answer your questions and offer advice and support.



Here are a few ideas that might get you thinking:

- History of the Hawkesbury, with exploration walks around our local towns
- People and Events that changed the world – with different members preparing a talk for each class
- Bridge for beginners, or maybe a Chess group
- A Movie Club, where members go to a new movie each month and then discuss over coffee
- Music Jam Sessions, or Sing-along sessions
- Any other ideas?

There will be a meeting of Tutors on 12<sup>th</sup> September to discuss plans for 2023. If you have any suggestions, or would like to know more about what this involves, please contact the office.

## MyU3A – a new way of working for our U3A

For 2023 we will be introducing a new way of administering our U3A Hawkesbury. This is a computer-based system called **MyU3A**. It is being used successfully by more than 40 different U3A groups around Australia. While **we will continue to offer the option of filling in paper forms and joining and enrolling at the office**, the new system will also allow people to work on-line. The MyU3A system will allow renewing and new members to use a computer or other device connected to the Internet to:

- Join and renew on-line, including paying membership fees via credit card
- View all course options, and enrol in classes and activities by clicking in a box on-screen
- Check the timetable and class schedule via computer or smartphone

**The first step?** Current member details have been entered into the MyU3A system. During September we will send out an email to each member with a user name and password and a link for each member to check their personal details that we have on the system.

**And then the next step?** We will enter all of the class and activity information for 2023 into MyU3A ready for the November enrolment period. This will happen progressively over the next couple of months.

**What could possibly go wrong?** As I type this, all of my fingers are crossed. We will certainly be seeking your cooperation and patience as we introduce MyU3A, as we will all be learning together. But we are confident that it will ultimately provide us with a more efficient and effective administration system.

Remember, we will continue to offer the option of filling in forms just as we have in the past, so you do not have to feel pressured about adopting this new way of working. If you have provided us with your email address, keep an eye out for an email from us about MyU3A over the next month.

**Ken Fraser, Office Coordinator**

## CLASS NEWS

### WALKING FOR PLEASURE

On a day when rain was the forecast only a hardy few braved the walk to Moran's lookout at Colo River, and for the time we were there the rain held off. **Fortune favours the brave!!**

Despite all the wet weather we managed a sunny day for our next walk around the foreshore of Sydney Harbour. We caught the train to Milsons point and walked down to Wendy Whiteley's Secret Garden at Lavender Bay and continued around Luna Park, North



Sydney Pool and under the Harbour Bridge.



Walking along the foreshore with great views of the Opera House and the city we walked up over the hill past Admiralty House. Morning tea was at Lady Gowrie Lookout and then on to Kirribilli Wharf. A short ferry ride to Circular Quay found us having lunch on the steps of the Opera House. We



opted for a ride on the new light rail to Wynyard station for our return trip home. Those with a seniors Opal card found the many different modes of transport at \$2.50 all up a very good deal indeed.

Our next walk is to Mt Tomah, with all the spring bulbs in flower and the Proteas in bloom it should be a pleasant stroll. **Alan Conradi**

### LOOKING AT LITERATURE 1

So far this year we have investigated and enjoyed (or not) some of the works of Edith Wharton, Alan Bennett, Ann Patchett, Kylie Tennant, and Salley Vickers (no that is not a typo, that is how she was christened).

This month we will discuss some of the books of Booker prize-winning English writer Pat Barker. She is most noted for her Regeneration Trilogy which deals with First World War history and the resulting trauma inflicted on its participants.

As you can see we cast our net wide. We are a small group so we do have room to include new members. **Jan Brown**

### LAWN BOWLS

It was good to get back on the green following the two previous sessions that were lost to the rain and floods. We did have to finish 15 minutes early due to drizzle, but enjoyable games were had. Stan, Paul, and Naomi each score one or two touchers. Gail who was returning from a long caravan holiday surprised herself with three touchers. Allan, our most reliable player was unfortunately laid low due to Covid.

Next time new members, Kerry Dwyer and Ron Stacey will be joining us and we look forward to their company. There is still room on the greens at Windsor for a few more. Equipment and coaching is provided. **Ian Biddle and Dieter Hinzmann**

## **ETHICS**

In our last session the group considered issues such as the ethical issues relating to our changing population, the fact that younger people are less racist, low levels of organ transplants, the rainbow jersey boycott, planned obsolescence and how to age gracefully. It was good to welcome back Eleanor who has been one of our most valued contributors for many years.

Our next session will investigate issues such as how to disagree peacefully, how to be a good neighbour, why are people less community minded, is society better than it was 100 years ago and how should we judge the actions of people who lived in the past?

Unfortunately both our Federal and State politicians are still giving us a range of ethical issues to examine.

Suggestions are still coming in as to what have been the most significant books that have changed the world. Some suggestions have been *The Female Eunuch* by Germaine Greer and *The Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin. My favourites are *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and *Pride and Prejudice*.

**Ian Biddle**

## **BIRDS OF THE HAWKESBURY FIELD TRIP – FEATHERDALE WILDLIFE PARK**

Our field trip this month was to Featherdale Wildlife Park. There were 23 of us in total which was excellent turnout. The park has a huge number of bird species and while the area is small, the consensus was that the aviaries are pretty good, with quite a lot of bushy native shrubs and small trees growing inside them.

We were joined by one of the birdkeepers, Beth, who pointed out different species and directed us to particular places in the park. She seemed delighted that we were so keen to hear about "her" birds. The highlight for all of us was being able to see birds in close-up, to get a really good look



at their colours and characteristics. It was also good to see other members of local bird families. We got to look at some similarities and differences. I really loved looking at the different finch species from across Australia, and their beautiful and often intricate, plumage. A special mention is probably required about the Eastern Whipbirds, which are so common but also so elusive in the bush. We could watch them producing their wonderful whip calls. And also the Regent Honeyeaters that are



part of the captive breeding program to return this critically endangered bird to the wild.



Thanks to Christine Johnson, Robyn Reed and Annette Haynes for the pictures. **Ken Fraser**