

Term 3– 24 July to 15 September 2017

President's Message



Term three starts on 24th July, but I would ask you to keep two other dates in mind;

Thursday 17th August is our AGM, always an important chance to be involved.

Before that, at 10am on **Thursday 20th July** there will be an Information Day – the details/discussion topics will be provided after the next committee meeting in June. I urge all members to put these two dates in their calendars. Both events will be held in the Emerald Downs Community Centre.

I have said it before; the lifeblood of our organisation is the convenors, followed by the committee in close second – our ability to offer new courses, and to keep existing courses going is limited by the number of people prepared to step up to the plate and help. Convening is not a fulltime job and can be shared when people are not available. Some topics run their course. Without new ones, numbers drop and we have fewer options to offer. As for the committee, we have been operating on a bare five people for the last year. I probably sound like a sad old man: “where are the young (er) ones”? An analysis of the committee/position-holders over the last nine years shows the same names with very few new members.

With winter settling in, stay warm and keep well.

Ron

Courses and Activities for Term 3

Thursday Mah Jong

Attendance figures for terms 1 and 2 have dwindled and on a typical week we only have four tables. I would like to encourage our members to invite a friend, preferably with mah-jong knowledge, to join us occasionally with a view to becoming a regular member.

My fellow convenor Chris Nunn has been unable to attend this term because of an accident and injury to her playing arm. We look forward to her return in Term 3 in full health. Several of our members including Fred Sellers, Hilda Banks and Desiree Kelly also spent some time in hospital.

Let's hope that next term we have a full house of healthy mah-jong players.

Convenors: Chris Nunn (6582 0154) and Audrey Bryant (6582 4036)

TERM DATES 2017

Term 1	6 February - 31 March
Term 2	1 May - 23 June
Term 3	24 July - 15 September
Term 4	16 October - 8 December

Magic of Art

Art can involve the presentation of a diverse range of human activities providing many thought provoking aspects. Through art we are made aware of issues/conditions of the past as well as the present. The artist communicates emotions as well as other qualities relevant to the subject.

Through our weekly segment of Gallery Greats, this term has made us ponder the waste of war via the painting **Gassed** by John Singer Sargent (1919) located in the Imperial War Museum, London. As a contrast we also looked at the well known **Guernica** by Pablo Picasso.(1937), now housed in Madrid at the Museo Reina Sofia. By exploring **The Meadow of St Isidore** by Goya(1788) located in the Prado Madrid, we have learnt of the custom in Madrid of people assembling after Mass for an enjoyable day on the banks of Manzanare river. Living conditions in Delft have been highlighted by Pieter de Hooch in several impressions of the courtyards of the town. **The Courtyard of a House in Delft** from 1658 is now housed in the National Gallery, London. Hieronymous Bosch (1510) has presented an emotional painting of **Christ Mocked** prior to the Crucifixion (National Gallery, London). Through these paintings, and many others, we are being made aware of feelings, issues and practices.

Gallery Greats presents a wider appreciation of artists and will continue next term. Our journey into the twentieth century will also continue.

Thanks go to the group members for contribution and support.

Convenor: Jacqui Krawitz (6582 2719)

IT Support Group

Many seniors, whether they like or not, are caught up in the dramatic changes in communications and where formerly our courses were entirely dedicated to computers they are now faced with new technology for example tablets, mobile phones and smart devices e.g. smart TVs, and using online programs like Netflix etc.

We have changed the course content so that each week is dedicated to a particular subject so members can attend for one or more weeks to suit their own needs by paying \$5.00 per session.

Many of our long serving course members prefer to attend the whole term so that they can get an understanding of developments in technology.

Members are encouraged to ask questions and Brian and Harry are challenged to find answers to the wide variety of computer or technology questions, so it is a joint learning experience and we hope fun for everyone. Discussions continue in the coffee break and we never run out questions.

If you would like to give it a try, why not come along for one session, you might even want to come back for more. Technology is developing at a very fast rate and there is always something new to learn.

Convenors: Harry Bryant (6582 4036) and Brian Syms (6582 7674)

Medieval Cities

Although Medieval Cities was to be a one term program, these interesting lectures will continue for the first three weeks of term 3.

Convenor: Bob Morgan (6584 9455)

Book Readers Groups

Wagtales

Part of the enjoyment of belonging to a book club is the variety of genres that can be perused. In our group, members contribute ideas for future reading which means we are faced with a wide range of novels and authors. At times we do not always admire the chosen writer, but the experience helps us to refine our skills of being critical.

Lately we have delved into ***True Grit*** by David Hunt. With his tongue-in-cheek account of the early days of Australia it has opened up a wider impression of our country and early inhabitants. Following on from ***True Grit***, it transports us to the south and introduces so many identities of the early days. His detailed accounts are supported by footnotes on almost every page, giving us oodles of trivia which prove to be entertaining as well as informative. Another read set close to home was ***The Bush*** by Don Watson. As a book it can fall into several categories which would appeal to a wider audience...from social history to memoir or travelogue and comments about nature. Thomas Kenneally wrote that this book was.....”ã great,succulent magic pudding of a book”.

At times we re-appraise novels and look back to well known classic reads. Currently the group is involved with ***To Kill a Mocking Bird*** by Harper Lee, a set of books borrowed from the MNC Library. Having won the Pulitzer Prize in 1961 it was also rewarded by being made into an Academy Award film.

Meanwhile we look forward to other reading challenges in the future.

Happy reading

Convenor: Jacqui Krawitz (6582 2719)

Bookworms

Our wonderful book group is a non fee paying group and as such is always full. We meet at our members houses on a voluntary basis and cater a lovely morning tea. Books are sourced from the Council's BOOKSHARE program which provides ten copies of each book every month. I urge others who cannot find a place in this or other bookgroups to convene another one under the auspices of Watonga U3A to spread the joy and friendship. Google the Library's Bookgroup site to see what wonderful books are on offer.

Convenor: Janey Gladwin (6583 9732)

Planet Earth

Term 3 continues with Big History presented by Professor David Christian and also Inventions That Changed The World presented by Professor W Bernard Carlson.

Convenor: Rodney Neasbey (6584 4368)

Current Affairs Discussion Group

Contact **Gayl Rovere on 0421319067.**

Let's Do Singles Dining/Lunch Group.

Lunch is on the second Saturday of the month. You don't necessarily have to be single, just come along for a chat and a nice lunch without your partner. For more information please phone Gayl.

Convenor: Gayl Rovere (0421 319 067)

2017 Term 3 Courses and Activities

24 July - 15 September 2017

All courses are \$25.00 per term — Courses shown with an asterisk * = No course fee

Members who register for courses by **Monday 10 July 2017** will benefit from an **Early Bird** discount of \$5.00 for each course.

Term 3	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
0930—1200	MONDAY MAH-JONG Audrey & Harry's home No Vacancies	CURRENT AFFAIRS DISCUSSION GROUP Convenor: TBA 0930—1130 Mac Adams Centre			
10.00-12.00				PLANET EARTH Convenor: Rodney Neasbey (6584 4368) (0437760035) Emerald Downs Community Centre	TEA/COFFEE & CAKE MORNING 2nd Friday Rainforest Cafe Sea Acres
10.30-12.30			BOOKWORMS Monthly Book Club 3 rd Wednesday. Convenor: Jane Gladwin (6583 9732) Members' homes		
1.30-3.30		WAGTALES Monthly Book Club 3 rd Tuesday Jacqui's home No Vacancies (6582 2719)			SINGLES LUNCH GROUP Second Saturday of the month at 12:30 pm Convenor: Gayl Rovere (0421 319 067)
2.00-4.00	MEDIEVAL CITIES Convenor Bob Morgan (6584 9455) Emerald Downs Community Centre	IT SUPPORT GROUP Convenors: Harry (6582 4036) and Brian Syms (6582 7674) Port Macquarie Library	THE MAGIC OF ART Convenor: Jacqui Krawitz (6582 2719) Emerald Downs Community Centre		
2.00-5.00				MAH-JONG Convenors: Chris (6582 0154) and Audrey (6582 4036) Mac Adams Centre	
6.30		WAG DINERS GROUP (4 th Tuesday Venues TBA) Enquiries Brian and Sue Syms (6582 7674)	BEEF & BURGUNDY (2 nd Wednesday Venues TBA) Convenors: Bridget Earl (65833657) and Jacqui Krawitz (6582 2719)		



Guests and Visitors may attend any group once without payment of course fees, subject to accommodation being available. New members are required to complete an 'Application for Membership' form.

Members may also attend courses on a casual basis, for which they are not registered. The fee for this attendance is \$5.00 per session.

Members may attend a "taster" session of any course free of charge.

Members may now use **electronic banking** to pay subscription and course fees using the account details on the following page.

NOTICES

Last year we sent out a flyer about Norfolk Island Holidays in conjunction with the Norfolk Island U3A. Holiday packages are also being offered again this year.

U3A NORFOLK ISLAND HOLIDAYS

U3A Norfolk Island invites you to holiday, share and learn at their place - on beautiful Norfolk Island.

“U3A NI is one of the U3A movement’s newest members! We are thrilled to have the opportunity to welcome U3A-ers from all over Australia and New Zealand to the island, to immerse yourself in some of our significant cultural events and to learn more about our fascinating history and language. In the process, you will also get to know U3A NI members and join in our local activities. We look forward to meeting you.” Barbara Kelly, U3A NI Chairperson

There are a quite few trips available. Some are listed below -

Norfolk Island Folk History -25 August - 1 September 2017

Garden Week - 6 - 13 October 2017 ex Brisbane

7 – 14 October 2017 ex Sydney

Foundation Day - 3 - 10 March 2018 ex Brisbane
2 - 9 March 2018 ex Sydney

Bounty Day - 6 – 13 June 2018 ex Brisbane
5 – 12 June 2018 ex Sydney

If you have an interest in visiting Norfolk Island please contact the Norfolk Island Travel Centre website:
www.norfolkislandtravelcentre.com to obtain more information.

Please use the following account details for direct credit payments:

Bank: National Australia Bank
BSB: 082 798
Account Number: 82096 1368
Account Name: Port Macquarie Watonga U3A

In the Message/Description/Reference/Information section please use the following codes. Please separate each item with a comma (e.g. AS, MJ, CO) if you are paying for more than one item.

Annual Subscription	=	AS
Magic of Art	=	MA
Medieval Cities	=	MC
Computers (IT Support Group)	=	CO
Current Affairs Disc. Group	=	DG
Planet Earth	=	PE
Mah-Jong	=	MJ

Alternatively please send details of the transaction to the Treasurer at:

rodneyscott51@bigpond.com



PORT MACQUARIE WATONGA U3A - 2016-17 COMMITTEE

President:	Ron Walker	6586 4681
Vice President:	Casual Vacancy	
Secretary:	Tessa Hodson	6582 2329
Treasurer:	Rodney Neasbey	0437760035
Publicity Officer:	Casual Vacancy	
Courses Coordinator:	Gayl Rovere	0421 319 067
Welfare Officer:	Jenny Reeve	6582 0656

Newsletter Editor/Website Administrator:
Val Shakeshaft 0412 107 127

PMWU3A Postal Address: PO Box 9461
Lighthouse Beach LPO
Port Macquarie, NSW, 2444
Phone 0490 518 537

Website: <http://portwatonga.u3anet.org.au>

Email: info@portwatonga.u3anet.org.au



PORT MACQUARIE-WATONGA U3A IS A MEMBER OF U3A NETWORK NSW

For further 'Network' information, including News and Quarterly newsletter visit the website: <http://www.nsw.u3anet.org.au/>

DISCLAIMER: This newsletter is provided 'As Is' without warranty of any kind. Each reader of the Port Macquarie-Watonga U3A Inc. Newsletter assumes complete risk as to the accuracy and subsequent use of its contents.