

Port Stephens Third Age Learning



Summer Newsletter, January 2019

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A message from your new president:

A very happy new year to all our members



We have a great new year of activities and courses to look forward to. It looks like most of our excellent courses continue this year and we now have Tai Chi classes added on Monday morning. It starts with an hour for beginners and then an hour for the more advanced but if you are keen, you may go to both. With so many courses, we will continue to have some issues in scheduling times and rooms. We ask for your tolerance if rooms and times are not always ideal. I might add, that compared to other clubs I have been involved in, our U3A has members who work well together.

As you know we have significant changes in our committee this year. Jean and Paul are having a well-earned break from their roles but will still be actively involved in many ways. Jean has been a very successful President for 4 years which is a sensible maximum period in that role. Jean will continue as a member of the committee as Vice-President and will help to ensure a smooth transition as Immediate Past president.

Paul has had many starring roles on the committee over more than 15 years and will still be involved in the wonderful trips that we have. In fact he is very busy preparing for our Canberra trip as I write this. He will also be very involved in some of our courses, especially his signature Astronomy course.

The committee is pleased that John can continue as Treasurer. He ensures that we stay solidly financial, bills are paid, and enrolls members each year. It happens almost invisibly and without problems—all the attributes you need in a good treasurer. Maggie Thompson has accepted the challenging role as secretary. She has worked with the committee last year and will make a fine secretary. Thanks Maggie.

Judith has been a most capable committee member for several years and has agreed to take on the critical Program Co-ordinator role. She will be busy. Narelle Mann has taken on the role of Social Secretary and we are most grateful for this. We look forward to a continuation of some great trips.

Helen is continuing to ensure that we have great guest speakers and also helps with activities such as raffles and Gai will continue as a most capable co-ordinator for the very popular walks program.

We should not forget the many other members that help, such as Dave as our webmaster, the ladies who help with Cuppa & Chat refreshments and those that help with walk organization. We are also very lucky to have such wonderful course presenters and so grateful to the many hands that help with raffles, chairs, projectors etc. My sincere apologies to anyone I overlooked in my eagerness to get this out.

I was quite hesitant to take on the role as President especially with previous presidents setting such a high bar. However, I realise that the job is much easier if there is a top-class committee where most things happen with such little fuss. This is the main reason for this lengthy Thank-you.

The last 2 months have been particularly busy for me. In early December Diane and I celebrated 50 years together (hard to believe it is that long) by going on a lovely cruise to New Zealand with our oldest son's family with four daughters aged from 9 to 21. After that we spent Christmas with them in Sydney and after a brief respite when we caught up on our washing etc., we had the task of looking after our two grandsons aged 2 and 6. Stressful as this can be at the best of times, we had our air-conditioning pass away during the hottest week in history (well almost). As I write this we are still hot (in the old sense of the word) with a new aircon being installed.

Don't Forget that Membership Fees are now due. Did you know that 23 years ago our Annual Membership was \$20. Our Membership is now just \$30 after decades of inflation. Most of this goes to pay for the hire of rooms in what is arguably the best accommodation of any U3A in NSW. A small amount (around \$2) goes to cover essential items such as Public Liability insurance, Network NSW levy and for such things as copyright dues.

Please note the extract below from the U3A NSW website regarding copyright. This website has a wealth of useful information.

Alan Young



*Judith Percy, Laurene Mulcahy
(Our Regional Rep), Alan Young
and Jean Lewis at our AGM*

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Up and coming dates for your dairy:

- ◆ **U3A, 3 Day, 3As Excursion to Canberra 28–30th Jan 2019**
- ◆ Because we have the above trip to Canberra just prior to start of term, there will not be any other coach trips this term.
- ◆ **Our first Cuppa & Chat is on Wednesday 6th February at 2.30pm.**