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Winter 2024 Newsletter



President's message :

Greetings to all our members

Winter is certainly here now and the shortest day is now behind us. It can only get better from here as long as we get some respite from the seemingly never-ending rain. Only 6 months ago I said I was hoping for some badly-needed rain but I should remember what Dorothea Mackellar said about droughts and flooding rain.

We are about to start our third term and the program and planner are being sent out. As is usual, programs are very similar to those in the last term but there are just a few changes. Thank you once again to all our splendid course and activity leaders for continuing their great effort and to Narelle for sorting out the sometimes difficult time and room issues.

The eagerly awaited Memoir Writing course is about to begin. If you ever contemplated writing your life experiences or parts of your family history then come and learn how to go about it and what is needed to make it interesting to the reader.

Ancient History will now return to every 2 weeks for the whole of this coming term and will now begin to look at some aspects of the peak period of Roman history. Astronomy is having a term break to prepare the next sessions and will continue in the fourth term with less emphasis on the history.

Again, you will need to be very careful to check the room locations and times as there are a few changes. Some days have cancelled classes due to rooms being unavailable on the day. These changes are highlighted in red in both the program and planner.

If you know someone that didn't receive the program then it means that fees do not appear to have been paid and they need to email the secretary (see the email address at top of this page).

I think you will agree that we had some great speakers last term and Chris has some excellent ones lined up again. In July we have Sheree Gibson who is a producer for the TV program 60 minutes and will describe some of the challenges they faced.

In August we have Phil Murray who is the son of the famous "gelignite" Jack Murray of Redex road trials fame. Phil will relate his experiences as a writer, adventurer and tour operator. In September we will hear Christina Batey describe the Oz Harvest food rescue organisation.

Our big Newcastle day trip is very close now and I am very much looking forward to it. I have seen the massive coal-loader facility before and am happy to go again. They put on a great visit for us. After lunch at Wests Mayfield, this is followed by a visit to Miss Porter's house or Newcastle Museum and both are great. Miss Porters is one of Newcastle's historic homes that was in original ownership for almost 100 years until given to the National Trust. Thanks Christine.



Other news

We have a lunch booked soon for a large group of our members at the Nelson Way café during the mid-term break on Thursday 11th July. This should be an excellent meal and it is a great venue - thanks Narelle. Shown below is a lunch that a group of us shared to celebrate some birthdays.

Our U3A NSW Network submitted their new constitution for review during May. The major changes are to the make-up and operation of the NSW Network committee which will now be formed from the Regional Representatives rather than from a list of people that most of us have never heard of - and which caused problems a few years back. Zoom virtual meetings were held of all U3A voting delegates to approve the new constitution and we made a small change in the process.

Following this, the NSW Network had their AGM in June, once again over Zoom. All went very well although there was rather a lot of time devoted to a discussion about increasing the member annual subscription by about 25 cents per year. Other states levy 2 to 5 times as much per member. The Network makes our job so much easier by amongst other things negotiating insurance, copyright and music licences on our behalf.

I hope to be able to retire as President at the AGM this November. I had intended to last for just 2 or 3 years but the disruptive Covid intervened. Then convincing someone else to take the running is never easy. Thankfully my VP, Pat Jenkins, has agreed to take my place and he has the very qualities needed to make a good President. Thank you Pat.

I must say that in my view there is more work in the Secretary, Treasurer, Program-coordinator, Social secretary, Public officer and Guest speaker roles. Thankfully we have some amazing people in those roles and they continue to surprise me with their capability and initiative. Please remember that all these people are volunteers giving their time to these very important functions and we should go out of our way to express our gratitude.

I hope that you enjoy our new program, Thanks, Alan



Up and coming dates for your diary:

- ◆ Term 3 begins on Monday 22nd July
- ◆ Next Meetup-2-Catchup (Cuppa&Chat) meeting is on Wed 7th August at 2.00pm
- ◆ Term 3 ends on Friday 20 September