Welcome!

From the President...

Dear Members,

We are now well into our second term of Semester 1, classes are going well, and we are still getting one or two new members every week.

Winter has arrived, and on some cold wet days we would rather skip a class and stay inside, warm and dry. However, please do remember that our Tutors, who put many hours into preparing their courses, turn up in all weathers and they deserve our consideration and attendance. If you are not able to attend a class please ensure that you let your Course Clerk know as soon as possible.

If you have enrolled in a course that you have decided you won’t attend PLEASE either go online and withdraw yourself from that course, or if this is difficult for you, then send an email to newcastleu3a.au@gmail.com, or send a text or call the U3A phone on 0479 193 182.

Sadly, there has been a noticeable increase in members missing multiple classes without apology or notification to the Course Clerk (or the office as a last resort). This is disrespectful to our very generous tutors and drives up venue costs unnecessarily, not to mention keeping other members out of popular courses. In future, serial offenders will automatically go to the end of the waiting list for any courses they apply to enrol in that are over-subscribed.

Our exciting Semester 2 Program has been finalised by our Interim Program Coordinator, the very capable Beth Elliot, and will be sent out to members shortly. Beth stepped into the breach when our former Program Coordinators resigned, but she has ongoing long-term commitments and does not plan to carry on the role into 2020.

This does, however, bring me to the very important matter of the Program Coordination team for Semester 1 2020 and beyond. Gloria and John, when they were the Joint Program Coordinators, carried on their own shoulders the whole load of producing the Program which included ensuring there were suitable venues available for every course. We have created a new role of designated Venues Coordinator, which Committee member Keith Finnie has been ably filling. This has enabled Beth, with the help of various Committee members and some others, to concentrate on tutors and courses.

We have many very able and talented people in Newcastle U3A and your Committee would be very grateful if one or two of you would step forward. Beth would be very happy to go through with you what the role entails.

Lastly, the names of your new Committee, a fresh and hard-working team elected at the April AGM, appear below. If you have any issues with the way your U3A is conducted, or if you have thoughts on how we could do things better, please do not hesitate to approach myself or any of our Committee members.

Best wishes to all

Julie Newing
President, Newcastle U3A

AGM results

Following our Newcastle U3A Annual General Meeting held on 9 April, those nominated for Committee positions were returned unopposed. John Thacker was our Returning Officer.

President: Julie Newing
Vice President: Margaret Flood
Secretary: Jenny Williams
Assist. Secretary: Margaret Finnie
Treasurer: Graeme Newing
Interim Program Coord: Beth Elliott
Committee: Norman Birt, Joy Carlin, Keith Finnie, Noeline Lowes, Jude Murray, Alan West

John Thacker is continuing in the role of Public Officer.

We welcomed our new Committee member Jude Murray.

Our thanks go to the hard-working members of the 2018 Committee who have retired from their positions during the year — Laila Boctor, Gayle Hopwood, Jean Griffiths, Gloria Jones and John Thacker.

Dates for Semester 2:

Term 3: 22 July to 13 September
Term 4: 14 October to 6 December
Labour Day Holiday – 7 October
Melbourne Cup Day – 5 November
Update from the Treasurer

Hello everyone. We remain in a sound financial position with cash and short term deposits of $54,970 at the end of May. This is down about $7,300 from the $62,261 at the end of February when I last reported to you, but is about $6,400 more than the $48,542 available at the same time last year.

The month closed with another seven members paying their fees, so the total is now 646 paid-up members. At the same time last year the total was 557.

I wrote in the March newsletter that we may finish the year with a cash and short term deposits position similar to last year’s closing balance of $37,757. It would now appear we will be in better shape than that but to what extent I don’t know until I have a look at the likely venue cost for Semester 2.

Graeme Newing
Treasurer, Newcastle U3A

From the Interim Program Coordinator

First of all, sincere thanks to all our tutors who continue to support and value add to Newcastle U3A. Your generosity of spirit in sharing your interests, passion and expertise is greatly appreciated by our hard-working committee and all our members.

Also, we would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new tutors who have joined us in Semester 2 – Dr Rachel Heath, Conjoint Professor of Psychology at University of Newcastle with her course *This Transgender Life*; Jennifer King, who, after teaching Japanese at a local high school for the last 27 years, is adding to our language courses with *Beginners Japanese Language and Culture Course*; David Alderton, whose course is *First Aid for Seniors*, is a professional First Aid trainer with a local Newcastle Organisation and trains SES personnel through various Hunter branches; Dr Rod Pattenden, Minister at Adamstown Uniting Church is an artist, art historian and educational facilitator who has written and lectured widely on the arts and creativity in Australia and overseas. His course *Art Irritates Life* will most certainly be interesting and thought-provoking. New tutor Dessie Koch adds to our already thriving Chinese language courses with her *Beginners Chinese* which promises to be an easy and enjoyable introduction to Mandarin. With *Memories, Manuscripts and More*, Rebecca Skinner, journalist, editor and writer, offers aspiring writers and memoirists another opportunity to put pen to paper and publish their work. Steve Garlick, retired Clinical Psychologist, teacher and Yoga practitioner, with his course *Waking Up – An Exploration of Consciousness* explores aspects of consciousness in a relaxing environment, and last, but by no means least, Steven Threlfo offers us insights into the magic and mysteries of 3D Printing.

As Interim Program Coordinator, I am greatly indebted to both John Thacker and Gloria Jones for their support regarding the Semester 2 Program. The Men’s Breakfasts continue again in terms 3 and 4 and I am delighted to advise that Dr Ron Robinson has agreed to be guest speaker on 2 August, and Mark Lynch, a man of many parts, on 1 November. Both men have tackled many challenges in their various careers and I can guarantee two very fascinating mornings to all who attend. Not to be outdone, I have programmed two Women’s Breakfasts with Guest Speaker local historian and writer Julie Keating talking on the life and times of women in the 19th century, and Pam Tierney, former CEO of Lifeline, will speak on helping the marginalised and disadvantaged in our society, while continuing to raise six children.
The Discover Sailing course series had a great reception in Semester 1 and that is being repeated again in Semester 2 – with an additional event – An Introduction to Sailing which is an Information morning prior to the actual sailing experience that is being held for interested members at the Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club on Tuesday, 30 July. This morning is being hosted by Henk Zeeman, U3A member and a sea captain of many years’ experience, tutor Andrew Omotosha and Sailing Academy Manager Jacqui Ellis.

I do hope that you find the Semester 2 Program exciting, enjoyable and interesting. I think there is something for everyone to enjoy. For those interested in art, do not miss Ross Edmonds Pop Up Art Exhibition which features original prints by the first professional artist of the colony, John Lewin, and some early works of Helena and Harriet Scott of Ash Island.

Beth Elliott
Interim Program Coordinator

Do You Know?

Newcastle U3A is blessed with almost 700 active members who have an extraordinary range and depth of skills and life experiences.

The success of our U3A depends on our members (of course), our wonderful tutors who give so generously of their time and knowledge, our dedicated Course Clerks who make the courses run smoothly and are the first line of support for members, and our gallant band of office and hospitality volunteers and Committee members.

But the engine room of U3A, the glue that sticks it all together, is the Program Coordination role. Without the Program Coordination team we don’t have a program – and without the program, we don’t have a U3A.

Being part of the Program Coordination team is exciting, rewarding, at times challenging and busy – and we need one or two members to join and take the team forward.

Now is the ideal time to see how it all happens with the Semester 2 Program in place and ready to launch.

We encourage you to think about being part of the Program Coordination team – please contact the office at newcastleu3a.au@gmail.com or on 0479 193 182, or talk to any of Beth Elliott (Interim Program Coordinator), Jenny Williams, Margaret Finnie or Julie Newing if you would like to know more about how you can help.

Jenny Williams
Secretary

COURSE REPORTS

Latin – Is it dead or are we still using it?

You would be surprised to know that we are all using Latin words every day. And many, many examples are in our English dictionary. Here are some examples:

- *etc* – et cetera (and the rest); *a.m.* / *p.m.* – ante / post meridiem (before / after noon);
- *i.e.* – id est (that is); *e.g.* – exempli gratia (with thanks to the example); *mea culpa* – my fault; *P.S.* – post scriptum (after writing); *N.B.* – nota bene (note well).

And some that need no translation – *in memoriam*; *in absentia*; *per annum*; *persona non grata*; *impromptu*; *requiescat in pace*; *in situ*; *terra firma*; *veto*; *vice versa*; *quid pro quo*; *per capita*; *non sequitur*; *ad nauseam*; *carpe diem*; *bona fide*; and finally *in vino veritas.*

Did you know (thanks to Joy for this) ‘*ad hoc*’ really means ‘for this purpose’ but now we use it as the opposite, to mean as a spur of the moment decision?

Did you know that the weight measurement ‘*lb*’ comes from the Latin word Libra which was a 12 oz – 1 pound Roman weight measurement and also stands for the constellation Libra (the Scales)?

One of my favourite words is astronom – *astra* (stars) and *nauta* (sailor) – “one who sails the stars”. And what about Novocastrian? *novus* (new) *castra* (camp/castle). Our language is rich with Latin words still in use.

We have two small but very enthusiastic Latin classes in our U3A, and we spend time looking at how Latin words and Latin grammar impact on our English, as well as struggling with the grammar itself and the jigsaw of putting the language together. It is not an easy language to learn and we do not try to speak it, but we spend a lot of time in intense discussion and lots of laughter. And can you believe this, everyone insists on homework!!

Classes chat together on their way in and out on Tuesday mornings and we have a combined Christmas lunch each year. Latin is definitely still a most useful language. And lots of fun.

Rosemary O’Neill

Newcastle U3A - NEWSLETTER Winter 2019
From the NU3A’s Let’s Write Group

Last year, the NU3A Let’s Write Group was proud to launch its very first anthology *The Tale Makers* with stories by 16 of its members. Now, thanks to the support of Ross Edmonds, we are going to publish another exciting first, a magazine which will be called: *The Write Stuff – writing for fun* at the end of the year. This will be filled with stories, poems, anecdotes and many other pieces contributed by the members of this year’s group. The cover (above) has been designed by the ever-creative Roy Bisson, who also coined the name for the magazine. With such a rich vein of talent in the group it will most certainly be something to look forward to.

Beth Elliott

The following was an item written, then edited down, for the thoroughly enjoyable U3A Let’s Write Group.

On paper at first glance, the river didn’t look much. The old map showed squiggles to represent rapids downstream.

The skeletal outline of trees, roots shaped like claws, sun-stars peek through the canopy where birds squawked, unsettled amongst the foliage.

I see my reflection as I look down. A scarecrow with hair askew, wriggling toes sending plumes of sand to cloud the surface.

One tentative step into the freezing shallows found a gritty sand bottom. I feel trepidation as I push off, walking, guiding the canoe until the river deepens, wondering what I will find on reaching the rapids.

Janice Bisson

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After last November’s launch of the NU3A writing group’s anthology *The Tale Makers*, journalist Scott Bevan published a follow-up piece on one of the authors, Mark Lynch, in the *Newcastle Herald*. This in turn led to Mark being asked to talk on Wednesday, 22 May to a gathering of 50 members of Hunter Region CWA Branches. The Australian CWA has nominated Papua New Guinea as their country of study for this year. Mark was one of three speakers who spoke on aspects of PNG’s history, people and Australian–PNG ties. Attendees were fascinated to learn so much they were unaware of about our nearest neighbour of 8 million people and asked many questions of the speakers.

Mark Lynch, PNG Patrol Officer in the 1960s

Chess

They say that if you don’t use it you lose it so I play chess! I was taught to play chess by Jack Bertrand at Hamilton Gardens when I was in my 70s, after I couldn’t go bush walking, and still play in my 90s, but we have many younger members so do join us. You will be helped to play if you are a novice and we have members who are experienced players also.

It is a great way to concentrate and forget any worries or aches and pain and every game is different. Win or lose it is great fun, join us!

Jennifer Dunn

From appreciative course members ...

Beginners Ukulele

Our teacher, Susan Coggan, is so patient with us and gives us lots of encouragement. Week after week, she’s there and always helpful. I would recommend anyone taking it up – it takes practice, but worth it.

Sunny Pengelly
Best teacher. Thank you for your time and patience. A warm, welcoming, fun way to spend a Monday afternoon (even if you are not a ukulele rock star).

R. Collins

**Singing group**

Pianist – excellent. Welcomes very pleasant. Singers very good to be with.

Pamela & Ron Wilson

**Art Gallery Tours**

Again this year, the Art Gallery tours have been well attended. The volunteer guides’ insights and explanations are always appreciated.

**Sodeisha: connected to Australia** included some stunning pieces.

Sodeisha is the name of a significant post-war avant-garde ceramics movement and this exhibition showed off the gallery’s impressive Sodeisha collection, along with ten contemporary ceramic artists from Australia and Japan.

Some large paintings included members of the human species happily embracing their natural environment and being all the better for it, as we were, engaged and entranced spectators.

**Floribunda: from the collection**

Floribunda featured art works from the Newcastle Art Gallery collection and included many well known artists like Sidney Nolan, Margaret Olley, Tom Roberts, Brett Whitely, Michael Zavros and many more. As the name suggests, the art pieces showed floral arrangements and natural settings that were overwhelmingly colourful and beautiful and reflected the wonder of nature’s creations.

**Tuesday Afternoons with U3A**

I NEVER CEASE TO BE AMAZED at the diversity of the Tuesday Afternoons programme, even though I put it together myself.

Each year, in four lots of eight per semester, thirty-two speakers from all parts of Newcastle and the Hunter Valley (and occasionally from Sydney and Canberra) provide talks and presentations to our U3A group.

We have University professors talking about “Acceptable Aging” and “Climate Change”, “Criminology” and “Storms and Cyclones”. We have technical officers from the Department of Fisheries in Port Stephens talking about “Oyster Growing and Reef Restoration”, on “Sharks” and on “Whales and Orca Rescue”.

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We have speleological experts talking on “Caving”, and noted historians presenting on “Old Hotels”, “Pit Horses in Coal Mines” and Railways. The Geological Survey group in Maitland talks on “Minerals in the Hunter and nearby NSW”, the Bird Observers Club presents on “Migratory Shore Birds”, and we have sessions on Old Clocks, Strokes, Beekeeping, Palaeontology, Health, Hunter’s National Parks, Fossils, Jazz, and talks from travellers in Italy, Malta, the Galapagos Islands, Southern Africa, and Europe. And lots more!!

So put aside time from 1.30pm to 3.00pm at the Adamstown Uniting Church each Tuesday, and you, too, can be amazed!!

Ron Davis,
Co-ordinator

Friday Lunch Venues

When we took over organising these monthly lunches from Jim Tinlin, we inherited a basic group of venues and some experimental choices. Of those experiments some were disasters, others were acceptable, but in our minds too far afield for easy access. Thus we were forced to do an audit of availability and ease of access of venues suitable to a membership that is mostly Newcastle domiciled.

Our first criterion was “local”, the second was “parking”, third was “public transport” and, of course, “price”.

A fifth, “general aspect”, was soon discarded because, once inside a venue, the outside world becomes redundant. Thus we settled on a brace of twelve to fifteen local suburban hotels that appeared to satisfy the criteria. Over time and exposure to those choices it became apparent that parking was an issue at some of them.

Not all our regular attendees are sprightly, so close-by car parking, easy, safe walking and few steps were added to the criteria. Early on, some places had to be deleted due to these extra limitations.

Finding ourselves with less than a dozen choices, thus plenty of repetition, a call went out for members’ input of venues they might think suitable. The response was not brilliant, but it did give us plenty to dwell on.

Suburbs such as Merewether, Glebe, Adamstown, Cardiff, Wallsend, Maryland and even far away Jewells were suggested. Four failed the “parking” test which was sad as we had affinity with each of those that failed. Others we decided were just too far out of “town” for some of our more elderly regulars to attempt.

The blanket of suburbs that met the criteria had shrunk to a group in western Newcastle.

At this point in time, after using that small selection, we are assured by the level of attendees that the criteria have been endorsed. The odd annoyance occurs, but as the world is not a perfect place we get over them.

Fifteen to twenty persons attend regularly and the conversation runs amok. To our loyal core we say thank you and to those who attend periodically we indicate our pleasure. We realise that seating is random, but that causes us to meet and greet those who would otherwise be strangers.

Lunch of the Month may not be a brilliant social event but it does bring us closer to fellow members.

Eric Aitchison, Leonie Sullivan, Conveners

NeW Space Tours

The NeW Space Tours were also well attended. Our guide for the first tour had to fill in at a moment’s notice, but gave us a thorough insight into the building and its users.

NeW Space is part of UON’s City campus in the heart of Newcastle’s CBD. It is a stunning building that utilises the latest in technology and innovation to improve the teaching and learning experience through engaging students in new and exciting ways. The building houses digital library services, collaborative learning and research spaces, social spaces and ... an Art Gallery.

There were expansive views from almost every angle.
**Inaugural Course Clerk Forum**

Every course needs a member of the group to act as Course Clerk to ‘grease the wheels’, support the Course Leader with equipment and/or dissemination of course materials or information, mark the Attendance Sheet, and help to ensure that everything runs smoothly. In Semester 1 there were 45 generous members who volunteered for this role – some for a day, some for 16 weeks; some very experienced, some ‘first-timers’. There has also been a number of changes in the way NU3A operates for even the most experienced Course Clerks to ‘get their heads around’. With all this in mind, the Committee has decided to run a Course Clerk Forum in the break just before the start of each Term. The inaugural Forum was held in the 21G Room on the morning of Tuesday 23 April. The Forum was very well attended, with around half the current Course Clerks available to hear about recent changes and discuss any issues they were experiencing. Morning tea was provided, along with a good opportunity to chat and swap experiences. And, as often happens, the refreshments were augmented by our lovely Course Clerks with a wide array of yummy treats.

The Semester 2 Course Clerk Forums, on 19 July and 11 October respectively, have been included in the Program as courses to encourage all Course Clerks and any member who is interested in knowing more about the role before volunteering for it to come along. Future forums will be less formal and provide even more opportunities for interaction.

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**Friday Coffee Mornings**

For new, current and potential members (or simply the curious) to chat, socialise and get to know others. If you have a friend interested in learning more about U3A they are more than welcome to come along. (Click through the links below for more info and menus.) Join us in the venue at 10.30am.

**RSVP please:** Elizabeth Howard 0451 272729
Jul 12 **CJ’s on Glebe**, 62 Glebe Rd, The Junction
Aug 9 **Tailors Workshop**, 10 Beaumont St, Hamilton
Sep 13 **Cafe Inu**, 43 Denison St, Carrington
Oct 11 **Fernleigh Cafe**, 89 Fletcher St, Adamstown
Nov 8 **Peaberrys**, 81 Maitland Rd, Islington
Dec 13 **Birdy’s Cafe**, 173 Maitland Rd, Tighes Hill

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**Lunch of the Month**

Venues have been chosen because of parking availability, access to public transport and a reputation for being an enjoyable place to dine and socialise. (Click through the links below for more info and menus.) Join us in the venue at 12.00 noon.

**RSVP, please:** Eric 4957 2211 ericaitch1@gmail.com
Jul 19 **Lambton Park**, cnr Howe, Morehead Sts, Lambton
Aug 16 **Blackbutt**, cnr Carnley Ave, Orchardtown Rd, Kotara
Oct 18 **Gates Hotel**, 660 Glebe Rd, Adamstown
Nov 15 **Prince of Wales**, 1 Morgan St, Merewether
Dec 13 **Duke of Wellington**, 69 Regent St, New Lambton

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**Orchestra Conductor wanted!**

The Lake Macquarie U3A orchestra which meets in the Anglican Church Hall, Toronto, between 1.30pm and 3.30pm on Fridays, needs a new conductor. Previous experience is always a bonus, but not necessary. Everything is already in place for the rest of this year and much of 2020, so there is plenty of time to settle into the role before taking on new scores. Orchestra members are a wonderful, supportive group who dedicate a great deal of effort to their music, and rehearsals can be an entertainment in themselves. Above all the orchestra enjoys a wide variety of music and has become quite flexible in its range over recent years. If you are interested and would like to find out more, please call Angela Finney on 4959 9525. You may even like to come along to meet us at a rehearsal.
Introduction to Sailing Information Session

Date: 30 July
Time: 10.30am–12noon
Venue: Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club, 95 Hannell St, Wickham

Interested in trying something new and exciting or brushing up on your sailing experience? Come along to this Introduction to Sailing at Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club where Hendrik (Henk) Zeeman, U3A member and your experienced captain, sailing instructor Andrew Omotosha, Sailing Academy Manager Jacqui Ellis and our own Graeme Newing will take you through everything you need to know to ensure that you have a most enjoyable experience. Information will cover what you will be doing, what to wear, where to park your car, where you can leave your gear, what to do afterwards. There will be videos of the Force 24s you will be sailing on and a Q & A session to cover any questions you may have before you decide whether to enrol in some or all of the Introduction to Sailing courses in the Semester 2 Program.

And something to make you smile ...

At a wedding ceremony, the pastor asked if anyone had any objections concerning the union of the bride and groom. It was their time to stand up and talk, or forever hold their peace. The moment of utter silence was broken by a young, beautiful woman carrying a baby. She started slowly walking down the aisle toward the pastor. Everything quickly turned to chaos.

The Bride’s mother fainted.
The Bride turned and slapped the groom’s face.
The Best Man put his head in his hands.
The pastor asked the woman, "Can you tell us why you came forward? What do you have to say?"
The woman replied, "Can you speak up a bit; we can’t hear you at the back."

John Page

No spring, nor summer beauty hath such grace,
As I have seen in one autumnal face

John Donne,
Elegies 'The Autumnal'

Abridged record of AGM keynote presentation by Gionni Di Gravio, Archivist, University of Newcastle

Gionni presented an entertaining and very informative overview of the extensive resources available online through the University’s Archives at: http://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/archives.

The digital archives aim to be a ‘one-stop shop’ – an aggregation of anything that has been digitised by libraries, museums and archives that relate to Australia. Sources for the University Archives include other archives such as Hunter Photobank, Lake Macquarie archives, Picture Maitland, and the UoN Living Histories collection. Currently, the NBN TV archives since 1962 are being catalogued as a mini sound and film archive. The archives hold over 80,000 images including several photo collections from the very early days of Newcastle. There is a race against time to preserve digital material by 2025, as accessing these is dependent on availability of machines that become obsolete (e.g. videoplayer), unlike stone carvings or manuscripts and photos printed on good quality paper, so that this history is not lost forever.

The University has now established the GLAMx (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums to the power of x) digitisation laboratory where a project to document all types of human expression across 50,000 years is under way.

Tutors’ Morning Tea 2019

As is it NU3A’s 30th anniversary in 2020, a special Tutors’ Morning Tea will be held as the inaugural event to mark this special year.

Date: 30 September 2019
Venue: Newcastle City Yacht Club
Time: 10.30am