



Dear Members

This is my last message to you in a presidential role, this time as Immediate Past President. Due to ongoing long-term health issues I was finding it very difficult to carry on my duties as President, many of which have been dealt with in recent months by your new President and former Secretary, Jenny Williams.

Jenny and I have worked closely together throughout my presidency, and she will be a very capable President (albeit in an Interim capacity until elections are held at the next AGM, and hopefully beyond).

I have enjoyed working with our wonderful and hardworking Committee and PC Team, some now past members, some new, who have all generously given their time, experience and expertise, and I cannot speak highly enough of them.

The Committee has not seen the last of me as, under the Constitution, the Immediate Past President serves on the Committee for 12 months, but without a vote.

I hope you have all come safely through the past six months and are looking forward to face-to-face classes and excursions once again.

Best wishes

Julie Newing

Footnote: As Beth has pointed out in her PC Report, the last 6 months of 'shutdown' have in fact been a very busy time for the PC Team and the Committee in doing everything possible to provide at least some opportunities for NU3A members to continue to learn and interact. We are grateful that we will still have the benefit of Julie's wisdom and experience for many months yet.

Newcastle U3A Committee.

CHANGING COMMITTEE FACES AND DEFERRED AGM

As you know, the NU3A 2020 AGM scheduled for April had to be deferred indefinitely when all face to face activities were cancelled due to COVID in mid-March. We will hold the AGM in conjunction with the 2021 AGM, as recommended by the Department of Fair Trading, as early next year as restrictions allow. You already have the 2019 Financial and Auditor's Reports, distributed with the Winter 2020 Newsletter.

It is not uncommon for a casual vacancy to occur in the Committee between AGMs, and for the Committee to appoint another member of NU3A to fill that vacancy until the next AGM. This provision in our Constitution is a standard procedure for many organisations. With the significant passage of time since the last AGM in April 2019, there have been several such vacancies, and these have been filled by enthusiastic volunteers to ensure that we continue to have the person-power to manage this large and growing organisation of over 700 members.

We have now reached a point where President Julie Newing, who has led us through so many significant changes and challenges over the last 2½ years, needs to step down to look after her own health now, instead of at the end of her maximum three-year term. It was important to all members of the Committee to support Julie in enabling her to retire from the role of leader now. So, the Committee has appointed Jenny Williams (who would have stepped down after three years as Secretary in 2021) as an Interim President; Ron Robinson has kindly agreed to take on the role of Interim Vice President (following the resignation of Margaret Flood), and Dale Bray has been appointed as Interim Secretary. All of these roles will be vacated and election of all Office Bearers and ordinary Committee Members held at the 2020/2021 AGM.

Thankfully, Julie will be able to continue as an ex officio member of the Committee as Immediate Past President for the next year, as provided by the Constitution.

In view of the changes, we thought it timely to provide a summary of current Committee members and positions, and encourage members to get in touch with any questions or feedback (email newcastleu3a.au@gmail.com or call the office phone on 0479 193 182) – and please chat to us when you see us in face to face classes or on Zoom!

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|-------------------------|---|
| Interim President: | Jenny Williams |
| Interim Vice President: | Ron Robinson |
| Interim Secretary: | Dale Bray |
| Assist. Secretary: | Margaret Finnie (Enrolments Officer, Course Clerk Coordinator and Database Manager) |
| Treasurer: | Graeme Newing |
| Assist. Treasurer: | Anne Moore |

Committee: Norman Birt, Joy Carlin (IT Coordinator), Keith Finnie (Venues Officer), Jude Murray (Newsletter editor), Alan West (Assets manager)

In addition, Keith Finnie was appointed as Public Officer some months ago, and Margaret Flood has taken on the non-Committee role of COVID Safety Officer (with our thanks!).

Jenny Williams

On behalf of the NU3A Committee

Program Co-ordinator's Report

It has been quite a year of uncertainties and disappointments for us as we have had to keep moving and amending many things including our Showcase – part of 30th anniversary celebrations for Newcastle U3A – from one date to another.

However, it's been said that good things come to those who wait – and for once it has! The Newcastle U3A Showcase was originally to be presented at the Laman Street Library during Adult Learners Week at the beginning of September. It will now be presented over three weeks starting on Monday 2nd November with a different presentation offered by a different tutor each day:

AT THE NEW STATE OF THE ART LIBRARY, 12 STEWART AVENUE.

“.... the high-tech library is the final stage of council's shift to Stewart Avenue. A Library billed as the state's most technically advanced will open in the city's west end premises on Monday. The council's \$2.8million digital library will include a podcasting studio, an interactive digital wall, a programmable robot (called Pepper) and an industrial 3D printer.” (Newcastle Herald, 6 September)



Clare Presser, Digital Library Activation Specialist with the state-of-the-art interactive digital wall, to be used by NU3A presenters in the November Showcase.

and isn't this fantastic?? It's a wonderful opportunity to show just a small part of what NU3A does and an acknowledgement of the contribution our tutors make – to our members and to our community as a whole.

The full program will be on the website in the near future. Ticketing is through the Library and will be limited as the Library, like us and many other organisations is a COVID Safe venue with restrictions on the number of people it is allowed to have.

Our tutors and assistants at new Library briefing



Back row L to R:
Hilary Oliver,
Emeritus professor
Saxon White, Dr
Roland Bannister,
Joy Carlin, Chris Cull,
Dr Robert Colomb,

Front row L to R:-
Ross Edmonds, Julie
Keating, Max Reeder,

Rosemary O'Neill, Jenny King and Elaine Mascord.

Not shown: Beth Elliott, Dr John Carr, Mark Lynch, Joy Barrow, Alan Barr, Martine Kalma, Elizabeth Delaney, Steven Threlfo.

2021 PROGRAMMING

We will still be living with COVID for quite some time to come and so programming terms 1 and 2 in 2021 has begun with that, and our obligations and responsibilities, in mind. Tutors and Leaders wishing to offer a course or presentation have the option of choosing to do their course on Zoom or face-to-face. Class limitations will be set according to government regulations as they are now and venues chosen with regard to the safety of members.

Keep safe and stay well,
Beth Elliott - Program Coordinator

NU3A ACTIVITIES FOR TERM 4

The Program Coordination Team is excited about a limited return to NU3A activities in Term 4. We have worked with our enthusiastic tutors to be able to offer 42 courses face to face in Term 4, in a limited range of venues with strong COVID19 Safety Plans in place. In addition, there are 7 excursions available (including 4 history walks). Another 16 courses will be on Zoom – including a full suite of the ever-popular Tuesday

Afternoon Series – and two by email – and NTC is back! Some courses have necessarily been deferred to 2021 to suit tutor preferences, or because of lack of availability of suitable venues. Monthly lunches have been suspended indefinitely (hopefully returning in 2021), and the monthly Friday coffee mornings have morphed into a weekly Thursday function for a small group to get together (see Program for details).



We are hopeful that the plans to offer face to face classes again in this COVID-impacted year will be “third time lucky”! That, of course, depends both on current NSW guidelines remaining the same or continuing to ease AND on member compliance with our COVID19 Safety Plan when attending activities face to face. Members who have been to almost any venue outside your own home recently will be familiar with these! As at the date of publication, the requirements include:

- A designated person in the class (usually the Course Clerk) will disinfect (using wipes provided) all door handles, light switches, and other common use touch points at the START OF EACH class in all venues.
- **ALL members** will be required to use hand sanitiser provided on entry to every class, and cleanse their own chair and other touch points (e.g. table area) thoroughly with disinfectant wipes provided at the START of their class each time (AND at the END of each session at Adamstown Uniting Church Barnes Room).
- At some venues (e.g. The Place) signing into the venue’s register with your name and contact details.
- Observe sneeze/cough hygiene (sneeze/cough into elbow; cover nose and mouth).
- NOT attend if you feel unwell or are experiencing ANY cold or flu-like symptoms (and expect to be politely asked to leave if exhibiting same in the class) or if you have been to a designated ‘hot spot’ in the last 14 days (a list of current ‘hot spots’ designated by NSW Health will be updated on the website as they change). Course Clerks will be asking

‘check’ questions at the start of each class and will be authorised to decline entry where necessary.

- Arrive and leave promptly before and after class – no congregating outside.
 - You are encouraged to wear a mask to class, particularly for the larger classes at The Place, which has requested that all NU3A members wear a mask when attending courses there.
- Details of NU3A’s COVID19 Safety Plan will be posted on the website and can be accessed [here](#). It will be updated via email and on the website as it changes to meet changing Government regulations and venue owner requirements.
 - We ask you to:
 - check the “new” Program for Term 4 with this Newsletter, as there have been so many changes to courses offered.
 - Check your enrolment confirmation (to be sent in the next week or so) for your status in courses that are still offered in Term 4, indicating whether they are face to face, Zoom or by email.
 - email nu3aenrolments@gmail.com or phone 0479 193 182:
 - * to WITHDRAW your enrolment from a course where the format (face to face or online) is no longer appropriate for your circumstances NOTE: Withdrawal from face to face classes if you are not yet able to return is particularly important, as some of these will have waiting lists.
 - * to ENROL in Term 4 courses of interest in which you have not enrolled already. N.B. Many face to face courses will be closed to new enrolments because of the COVID space restrictions, but there is almost unlimited ‘space’ on Zoom courses.

We hope that members share our excitement about this limited return to face to face activities, and that all our 700 plus members will be able to participate in some way.

The Program Co-ordination Team
(Beth Elliott, Margaret Finnie, Keith Finnie, Joy Carlin, Michelle Deeg)

CHANGES AT NU3A ‘HQ’ – EXCLUSIVE USE!

We have seen many changes at 21 Gordon Avenue over the last 7 years that it's been our 'home' and office headquarters: The significant move to online membership and enrolments, a 'paperless' (more or less) office administration, and increasing use of email and phone by members has meant much less use of the office space, and few face to face enquiries. Most recently, NU3A has been granted exclusive use of our



classroom by the building owner, who was very impressed by our refurbishment of the room, and our strong COVID19 Safety Plan. This is very exciting news, as it has

always been a requirement that other tenants and outside groups could use the space in the evenings and weekends. There have been numerous occasions when those users left the classroom dirty and untidy – and use by other groups was of particular concern in the context of COVID. Together with the reduced use of the office space, the ability now to lock the classroom when not being used by NU3A has enabled us to combine the two functions and thereby reduce by one-third our biggest annual expense – the monthly rent of 'HQ', month in and month out, year round.

For office enquiries, please email newcastleu3a.au@gmail.com or phone the office on 0479 193 182. There will be 'office open hours' in the classroom during every enrolment period.

DISCOVER SAILING RETURNS IN TERM 4

The popular Discover Sailing courses return in Term 4 after having to be cancelled in Term 1.



If you're interested in trying something new and exciting or brushing up on your sailing experience, come along to the Introduction to Sailing at Newcastle

Cruising Yacht Club where Hendrik (Henk) Zeeman, your experienced captain and NU3A member, sailing instructor Andrew Omotosha, and Sailing Academy Manager Jacqui Ellis 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.



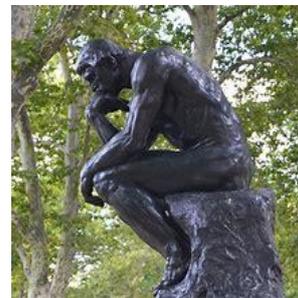
There will be videos of the Force 24s you will be sailing on and a Q and A session to cover any questions you may have. Then you can join one or all of the weekly Discover Sailing Experience sessions on the Force 24s for the heavily discounted price of \$25 per 3-hour session.

Trainer Captain Henk Zeeman on a Force 24 at NCYC

Please email nu3aenrolments@gmail.com or call 0479 193 182 to enroll in the Information Session on the first day of Term 4 – **Monday 19 October**. See the Program for further details.

NEW COURSES IN TERM 4

PHILOSOPHERS AND PHILOSOPHIES led by Dr Jeanne Boote, 10-11.30am Mondays face to face: Remember the Monty Python *Philosopher's Song*? Ever wondered who the philosophers were, and what they were on about? Here's your chance to find out! A light-hearted look at the development of Western Philosophy over the duration covered in the song - from around 500BCE to around the end of the last century. While we'll focus on the philosophers mentioned, their drinking



status won't be covered in this course.

ARMCHAIR AVIATION led by Dr Rachel Heath, 11.30-1pm Mondays, face to face and on Zoom: HAVE YOU EVER FLOWN A PLANE? OR REALLY WANTED TO?? OR JUST VERY INTERESTED IN HOW IT ALL

WORKS???

The course is intended for retired pilots, and those who have some flying experience and/or a deep interest in aviation. Rachel will explain the technical requirements to enable you to decide whether to enrol – as a participant, or just an observer (on Zoom), and if you want a taste of what it's all about just have a look at <https://www.youtube.com/user/rachah1508> where Rachel is currently simulating her flights since 1970."

See Program for details of both courses.

COURSE REPORTS FOR TERM 3 – OR – TAKING ON THE CHALLENGE OF GOING DIGITAL!

We are blessed with very dedicated and talented tutors at Newcastle U3A – something that we hear is the envy of other branches 😊. That blessing has been particularly evident in this challenging year, and our tutors have risen to the challenges by learning new skills (such as presenting on Zoom) and finding creative ways to continue to deliver their courses to members. And many members have taken on the challenges of ‘going digital’, often with the help of children or grandchildren, enjoying the experience of a new way of learning and interacting. We all know it’s not as good as face to face – but it certainly beats the alternative of nothing! So, THANK YOU to all our dedicated tutors, and to our members, for taking on the challenge and enabling 37 courses to be offered via Zoom, email and Google in Term 3.

UKULELE ON ZOOM

Our intrepid leader, Susan Coggan, was the first tutor to try teaching on Zoom for NU3A, and has offered 3 courses each week on Zoom (Beginners and Intermediate Ukulele, and Music Theory) since early April – bravo Susan! She will be pleased to return to face to face classes in 2021 so she can hear our mistakes! But for the 27-28 members who have regularly attended Intermediate Uke it has been a great learning experience, steadily building our technique and repertoire under Susan’s guidance – and the close-ups of her fingers on the chords and picking!!



NU3A Intermediate Uke class on Zoom – being able to play together makes us happy!

THE CHURCH HISTORY 2 course taught by Dr John has proved to be immensely interesting, full of facts, pictures, descriptions and information. Our weekly "lesson" was well named because it was indeed a lesson in Church History - but unlike some of our boring school lessons this was a wealth of information set out in a concise and readable way making it easy to absorb and left me wanting more. Dr John has gone to great deal of trouble to provide us with detailed information about Church History from Early Christianity to beyond 1651. Lots to read and ponder over. Thank you for making this a memorable course Dr John.

Anita Zielonka

TUESDAY AFTERNOONS MOVE TO ZOOM

Halfway through Term 3 Ron and Carol Davis took the big step of trialling the ever-popular Tuesday Afternoon presentation on Zoom, with Margaret Finnie's "Voyages to Antiquity: Singapore to India".

The experiment was a great success, with 25 members in attendance, who were able to see Margaret's fascinating photos 'up close'.

A number of attendees commented that it was actually better than being at the back of the room in the Church and trying to see the big screen from there...

Following this experience, another three Tuesday Afternoon presentations were made on Zoom and the full suite of 8 presentations have been programmed on Zoom for Term 4.



YOGA



Yoga on Zoom continued for all of term 3 with an average of 24 members participating. The fun of balancing, stretching, bending and then sharing a final chant all in their own loungerooms kept them all coming back for more. Even when the tutor was unavailable a recorded Zoom session was played allowing the devoted to continue!

Other large courses that successfully transitioned to Zoom in Term 3 include Dr John Carr's "Life Issues: the Big Questions" and Bob Colomb's "Out of Asia".

If you would like some help to join classes on Zoom in Term 4, please email newcastleu3a@gmail.com or phone 0479 193 182 and we will arrange to do that.