

# THE SMART AGE PAGES

## The Mudgee District U3A Newsletter

PO Box 469  
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[www.mudgeedistrictu3a.org.au](http://www.mudgeedistrictu3a.org.au)

November 2017



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### Dear U3A Members

A warm welcome to Term 4 from your newly-elected Committee for 2017/2018. Special thanks must go to the previous Committee for all their hours of volunteer work that kept this wonderful organisation running so smoothly.

Barry Wells kindly volunteered to fill the Casual Vacancy on Committee and was duly appointed at the September Committee meeting. Thank you Barry!

The new team met in September and October and the various responsibilities agreed to, Guidelines are under review and Sally Colley, Program Coordinator, is busily organising our 2018 Program, which is a mammoth task. Please contact her on 6372 9993, if you have a skill or interest that you would like to share with our members, even if it is a one-off event.

David Price is continuing as our Website Manager and has upgraded the website platform after approval by the previous Committee. If you haven't already done so, please take time to look at the new format and submit a comment, photo or news relating to your class.

Our website address: [www.mudgeedistrictu3a.org.au](http://www.mudgeedistrictu3a.org.au)

Ann Burrows, Events Coordinator, organised a lunch at TAFE Mudgee on 24<sup>th</sup> October and thirty five of our members booked for this event. The TAFE students certainly provided a delicious lunch and the setting, pleasant staff and friendship of members made it a delightful event. Thank you Ann!

Please do not hesitate to contact me or a Committee Member if you have any queries.



*Judith Darling*

**MUDGEES DISTRICT U3A COMMITTEE 2017/2018  
& COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES**

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Judith Darling	Newsletter Coordinator Risk Assessment Sub-Committee
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Ann Burrows	Events Coordinator Membership Enquiries
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Dorothy Munns	First Aid Kit
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Steven Cowan	Public Officer Website Sub-Committee Convener Presenters' Notes – photocopying Member Name badges Assistant Newsletter Publisher
<b>TREASURER</b>	Ray Parle	Assets Register
<b>PUBLICITY OFFICER</b>	Debra Cowan	Newsletter Publisher
<b>PROGRAM COORDINATOR</b>	Sally Colley	Membership Secretary Annual Program Coordinator Class Lists
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBER</b>	Nancy Chapman	Membership Enquiries Welfare Officer Assistant Events Coordinator
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBER</b>	Elly Rands	Minuting Secretary Presenter's Booklet Coordinator
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBER</b>	Geoff Dear	Risk Assessment Sub-Committee Assistant Treasurer – Petty Cash
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBER</b>	Barry Wells	Risk Assessment Sub-Committee
<b>DELEGATION BY COMMITTEE</b>		
<b>WEBSITE SUB-COMMITTEE</b>	David Price	Website Manager

## President's Report to the 2017 AGM of Mudgee District U3A

2016-17 has been an interesting period for the U3A Committee. You will remember at last year's AGM there were not enough candidates to fill all the vacancies on the Committee and no one was prepared to accept the position of President. Thus we went into the new committee year, two people short and without a leader.

Having been elected in as Vice President, the role of President came to me by default but at the same time, many of the duties of that position were shared out among the Committee members to lessen the load. For this I am extremely grateful and I wish to thank all the current committee members for the work they took on during the year, for their unwavering support and for their ongoing commitment to U3A.

I may have worn the badge, but the person really running the show was **Janet Duffy**. As Vice President, Program co-ordinator, Compiler and Publisher of the Program booklet and other documents, Membership Secretary, Member of the Risk Assessment sub committee, Co-ordinator of U3A On-Line and a course presenter, Janet has lived and breathed U3A for the past 4 years. Janet's contribution has been enormous and as she steps down from the Committee, we thank her for all her efforts, particularly those as Program Co-ordinator in the last few years. In that capacity Janet has wrangled people, times and venues resulting in stimulating programs with a wide range of courses to cater for our membership's varied tastes, experiences and interests. Thank you Janet, your efforts have been greatly appreciated.

Supporting Janet every step of the way has been **Marianne Matthews**. Marianne, a previous Committee member, gallantly stepped forward to fill the Casual Vacancy created after the last AGM. On reflection, 'stepped' may be a slight exaggeration. 'Stumbled' may be more accurate as Janet and I bailed her up when she lay recovering from a bout of pneumonia this time last year and she agreed, just to get rid of us. As Committee member and as presenter, Marianne has served U3A well and as she again steps down we thank her.

While Janet is going to be greatly missed by the Committee, she is leaving the role of Program Co-ordinator in very good hands. For the past 12 months **Sally Colley** has served her apprenticeship with Janet and she is now ready to take over. Hers will be the most time consuming position on the Committee but Sally is but the latest of a line of extremely competent people to have taken on that role (including Ann and Janet) and I have no doubt that she will handle the demands of the position well. Thank you Sally.

As he has done for many a year now, our Treasurer, **Ray Parle** has looked after the finances and made sure that we have remained in the black. Ray will give his financial report later and again demonstrate that he is the right man for the job. He has held the office of Treasurer for so long that he has become an institution, and to recognise that fact the committee has decided to make him an Honorary Life Member. Ray, would you please come forward to receive this award.

**Steve and Debra Cowan**, Secretary and Publicity Officer respectively, work well as a team (as you would expect) and together they have made a valuable contribution to the Committee. Steve has done a great job at digitalising U3A records and streamlining processes while Debra has sought to promote U3A both in traditional and in innovative ways. Thank you to you both.

Thanks also to Committee members **Geoff Dear, Dorothy Munns, Nancy Chapman and Ann Burrows** who have worked quietly and efficiently behind the scenes to assist the Committee in every way and to make ensure the success of U3A activities. Dorothy has served as our second Vice President, and despite her own bouts of ill health, she has kept an eye on the welfare of members. Geoff has continued to work on the Risk Assessment Committee and has looked after the Petty cash. Nancy has been assistant Events Co-ordinator while Ann has handled Membership enquiries and as Events Co-ordinator, has been cooking up a surprise, which I am sure she will be only too pleased to tell you about.

There is one more person whose efforts for the Committee must also be acknowledged and that is **David Price** our Web Master. It's David's task to maintain the website and keep it up to date. He is currently engaged in a massive restructuring of the site to cater for any platform. Thank you David for your ongoing work.

For the reasons that I have outlined, in the last year Mudgee District U3A has been in a holding pattern. We haven't gone backwards, but we haven't forged ahead either.

Our current membership is 241. That is down about 40 from last year and there are a number of reasons for this slight decline.

Like it or not, we are an aging population and there is a certain amount of natural attrition, while prevailing economic conditions mean that people are working longer or are taking on roles to support family members who are working meaning that they do not have the time for U3A. The new batch of 'retirees' is likely to be quite 'tech savvy' and happy to do their 'learning' on line and this has implications for the types of courses we need to offer, an issue that the new Committee and especially Sally, as Program Co-ordinator, will have to address.

That's not to say that only the same old courses were offered this year. Of the 40 courses that ran, there were 8 new ones, which all proved to be popular. They included

The Wonders of Egypt  
The End of the Romanov Dynasty  
Mosaics  
Human Biology  
Language in Literature  
A very Basic Computer Introduction course  
Documentary Potpourri  
Who put the Great in Great Britain?

As well, there was the return of an old favourite – Busin' About. From all reports, these day excursions have been highly educational, extremely social and above all, a great deal of fun. Thank you to Jacqui and her assistants who have put so much work into making this project a great success.

Of course, none of the courses would run without the presenters who volunteer their time and effort to share their experience and expertise with us. To all of you, an enormous thank you but at this point I would like to make special mention of some people who have more than done their duty in regard to presenting and who after many years of service, are stepping down. They include, Colin Munns, there from the inception of Mudgee U3A, Mary Buckley, Eunice Marskell and Carol Bryant. Could those people come forward to receive a Certificate of Appreciation.

Another thank you must be made to **Joan Harris** who looks after the Adams Street facility. Thank you for your vigilance Joan.

As I have told you numerous times in the Smart Ages Newsletter, as from today, I too will be stepping down from the Committee. I have enjoyed my time working with people who believe in the power of education and in the importance of lifelong learning and hope that in the last few years I have made a contribution to that process. I am handing over to the new committee under the leadership of the more than capable, Judith Darling (whom Janet has dubbed Saint Judith) who after a break from the role as President, has agreed to take up the reigns again. I also welcome new Committee member Ellie Rands.

Judith and the new committee face a number of challenges, including those posed by a changing membership and the increasing use of technology in the world, both of which I have already referred to plus the ongoing issue of finding appropriate venues. Once again, the Committee is short a member meaning that there will be another Casual Vacancy which any of you could fill if so inclined. To avoid this issue, one measure could be to change the Constitution to reduce the number of Committee members but that would have to come before next year's AGM and in the meantime, I am hoping that someone will step up to the plate.

I firmly believe in the value of U3A and hope that it will continue to provide educational and social opportunities for older members of our community. It will, if we all pull our weight.

In the meantime, I am off to do some research for my courses for next year.

***Heather Rushton***

## From U3A Network NSW

### **Thoughts on Volunteering**

*Article by Graeme Eggins, 8 August 2016, 'U3A's Greatest Challenge How to get Baby Boomers to Help Us'*

- Volunteering makes you happier because you feel really good about yourself
- It can be fun to work in a team free of work pressures
- You have the opportunity to make new friends with like-minded people (This appeal is particularly effective for newcomers to your district)
- You can demonstrate your skills and knowledge gained over a lifetime of experience
- You gain increased status and public approval as a person valued by the community.
- You may learn not only new skills but new ways of coping with ageing, specially when you meet people facing health challenges greater than yours.
- This is your chance to make a positive difference in many other people's lives and leave a legacy to following generations of U3Aers.

## Program Coordinator's Page

# CALL FOR PRESENTERS

Mudgee District U3A 2018 Program

**SHARE A SKILL - SHARE AN INTEREST WITH OUR MEMBERS**

*This is your chance to make a positive difference in many other people's lives*

**Contact our Program Coordinator, Sally Colley Ph: 6372 9993**

## News from our Classes



### U3A - Ukulele & Recorder

**From Kay Binns**

U3A has many interesting courses and not the least of these is the Ukulele & Recorder class led by David Fry (The Rev. Dr. David Fry), known to all his friends and students as just David. He is a wonderful teacher as well as being a very accomplished musician! David Fry has been teaching music for nigh on 70 years and has been involved with U3A for at least 13 years! He is a wind, keyboard and now ukulele player and a master of several members of the recorder family (the tenor, treble and descant to name a few) and is quite a mean ukulele player!

We have 6 to 8 people who turn up for the ukulele & recorder classes and even for people who have never played music before, it is an excellent introduction. Due to its small size the ukulele chords are relatively easy to learn and much fun is had in the learning. We all harmonise as well as those with good voices leading the singing and sometimes the recorder players join in (mostly descant recorders).

David is a stimulating teacher and the lessons can also be very informative, as he elaborates on some obtuse information bought on by a song we are doing, and we all enjoy a little lecture on whatever subject matter comes up.

*Ukulele & Recorder classes welcomes new members, as there is always room for more players.  
Classes are held on a Tuesday, at the Adams Street Complex Meeting Rooms, 12 Adams St. Mudgee.*

## REMINDERS



### **CLASS ABSENCES**

Please advise your Class Presenter either by phone  
**OR** by recording known dates in the Attendance Book



### **LOOKING FOR PRESENTERS for our 2018 Program**

**SHARE A SKILL - SHARE AN INTEREST WITH OUR MEMBERS**

*Contact our Program Coordinator, Sally Colley Ph: 6372 9993*

### **Diary Updates – Term 4: 9<sup>th</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup> December**

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE	QUERIES
9 <sup>th</sup> October	2:00pm	Committee Meeting	Adams St Complex Meeting Room	Judith Darling 0431 551 596
24 <sup>th</sup> October	12noon	Lunch	TAFE Mudgee 269 Ulan Rd. Bombira	Ann Burrows 6372 6599
13 <sup>th</sup> November	2:00pm	Committee Meeting	Adams St Complex Meeting Room	Judith Darling 0431 551 596
November		Smart Age Pages to Members		Judith Darling 0431 551 596
11 <sup>th</sup> December	2:00pm	Committee Meeting	Adams St Complex Meeting Room	Judith Darling 0431 551 596
29 <sup>th</sup> December		2018 Program Mail Out		Sally Colley 6372 9993
8 <sup>th</sup> January	2:00pm	Committee Meeting	Adams St Complex Meeting Room	Judith Darling 0431 551 596
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	9:30am	ENROLMENT & SHOWCASE	The Stables Market St. Mudgee	Judith Darling 0431 551 596

**PLEASE BE AWARE THAT INFORMATION RELATING TO THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS MAY CHANGE.**