

News from Central Office



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Sydney U3A AGM
- President's Report
- 30th Anniversary of Sydney U3A
- URGENT help needed

Sydney U3A Website:

www.sydneyu3a.org.au

May 2018

The 2018 AGM was held on 22nd March, at **The Mitchell Theatre**, Sydney Mechanic's School of Arts in Pitt Street, Sydney with 65 members in attendance. All motions to make changes to the constitution were approved, including **the reduction of the 'in grace' period for membership payments from 3 months to 1 month.**

Guest speaker **Jane Caro** gave a very balanced and interesting talk about abuse in the work place.

Office Bearers elected for 2018:

- President: Barbara Boston
- Vice President Education: Dianne Ekert
- Treasurer: Marilyn Noonan
- Secretary: Jennifer Hawkins



The positions of Vice President Public Relations and Administration Manager were not filled and the Board of Management are seeking people who may be interested in these positions. As all members know, U3A is managed entirely by volunteers so anyone with some spare time to help out in these positions should contact Barbara Boston nboston@bigpond.net.au It is a very rewarding experience and one which can enrich your life in many ways.

President's Report:

At the AGM Carolyn Franklin completed her three years in the Administration manager position. Carolyn has been the backbone of our operations, giving many hours to ensure that membership registrations are kept up to date. She was responsible for training all office volunteers in the new management system adopted in September 2016. As we have not yet been able to find someone to take on this role Carolyn is continuing to organise the office. In recognition of her work Carolyn was presented with a beautiful orchid.

Congratulations to Bobbie Kersten, Inner West Region, and Barbara Potts, Northern Beaches Region, on being granted Honorary Life Membership of Sydney U3A. Both women thoroughly deserve the recognition extended to them.

Upper North has had a sad time over the last month having lost three prominent presenters, Josey Pittman (poetry), Rex Benn (Music), and Keith Potten (Drama). Sadly, Honorary Life Member and long-time member of the committee, Doug Milne, passed away on 19 April. We extend our sympathy to the Region and to the family and friends of these members who have been dedicated members for many years.

As we come to the end of the first semester and look forward to the many offerings for second semester I thank all of our volunteer course and venue coordinators, speakers and course leaders for their enthusiastic service to Sydney U3A. You are the glue that holds us all together.

Barbara Boston

Sydney U3A 30th Anniversary

On Saturday 7 April 63 people gathered at the Refectory, the Holme Building, Sydney University to celebrate 30 years of Sydney U3A. It was a beautiful day with bright sunshine, not really the day to be inside but we looked forward with great anticipation to the speakers who would be presenting to us.

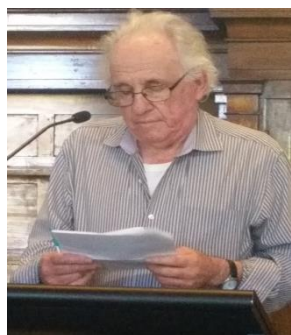


Lorna Clayton

To start the day we heard of the early history of U3A in Sydney. This was followed by presentations from three of our Honorary Life Members, Lorna Clayton, from Greater Western Region, Mick Greig, from Northern Beaches Region and Margot Taverne, from Upper North Region. Mick spoke about the development of U3A in the

Northern Beaches area and many of the people who contributed. Lorna and Margot spoke about the many creative activities which occurred in the 1990s. We hear about 'creative aging' today. Sydney U3A was doing it 20 years ago. Lorna and Margot are both still leading groups they started 25 years ago.

Following morning-tea we heard a very inspiring talk by Janine Kitson on the Stone Gardens near Lithgow. The photos she showed us were stunning and rival anything that can be seen in the Katoomba area. It is hoped this area can be added to the conservation areas which surround it.



Frank Wilson

Frank Wilson, better known to many as the History Man, spoke about his 15 years as a presenter. He urged us all to value what Sydney U3A has to offer and to contribute what we can to the organisation. After all we are a self help organisation in which everyone has a part to play.

Our final presentation was given by Emeritus Professor Ron McCallum. Professor McCallum is blind from birth but despite this rose to become the first person with a disability ever to be appointed as a professor in any university in Australia. Everyone found his talk fascinating and inspiring. At one stage he got out his I-phone and explained to the audience how a person with vision impairment can use a phone to help them in their daily life. One story he told was of how he used the phone to help him choose the right tie to wear when his wife was not at home to help.

*Professor Ron
McCallum*



The day ended on a really happy note with everyone enjoying lunch in the courtyard. Thanks to June Keith and Mike Peterson, the day went off without a hitch.



COURSE BOOK EDITOR – HELP URGENTLY NEEDED

Ian Thompson, who has done a brilliant job either co-editing or editing 16 course books over an eight-year period, is retiring from the role. The last book that Ian will edit is Semester 2, 2018.

MEGA MEGA thanks to Ian for the tremendous effort. Thank you also to copy editor, Elizabeth Goodman and to Liz Waring and the other members of Ian's team of proofreaders who, along with Ian, are also retiring from their roles.

We have been extremely fortunate in that Eastern Region member, Michael Markham, who was a sub-editor at the Sydney Morning Herald for 20 years, has volunteered to become the new editor. Ian generously passed on clues and guidance to Michael, but we must now build a team of proofreaders and assistants around Michael. The course book is the bible of Sydney U3A and is a huge production that requires several people. Without it we cannot function.

If you have the following skill sets, have the time and would be prepared to assist give me a call on 0419 245 756 or email me on treke@bigpond.com

Essential skills

- Comprehensive knowledge of English and grammar
- Strong command in the use of Microsoft Office specifically Word
- Well organised
- Attention to detail
- Ability to read print and pick up errors
- Available time especially May and November
- Proven communication skills
- Ability to cultivate relationships with RCCs

Desirable skills but not essential

- Previously worked as a sub-editor, editor, proofreader or have had exposure to journalism, communication.

As soon as S2 2018 course book is mailed we will organise a meeting with the RCCs so that they can meet with Michael and, hopefully the new team. In the interim I would ask all RCCs to have a think about the course book and come along with input – example what's good and what could be improved.

Dianne Ekert, VP Education

