

Hastings U3A Inc.



PELICAN NEWSLETTER

*February
Edition*



February 2024

**It's time to help
your U3A**

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR
HU3A OFFICE

Do you like meeting people?
Can you spare two hours per
month to help staff our Office?
Duties would include

- Meet and greet members and visitors,
- Explain the benefits of joining U3A,
- Enrol members, accept payments, issue receipts
- Deal with telephone enquiries
- Help with badge production
- update and tidy displays.

New volunteers would receive training.

Additionally if you are able to use a computer we will provide training for our UMAS system which gives access to our membership database. The Office is staffed by 2 volunteers one capable of using a PC, one without pc experience.



Our Hastings U3A committee

We are a fun lot of people, but we are serious about delivering the best tutors and courses for our U3A members. To do this, we need lots of help. Can you help?

See inside for more details!

**Mark in your diary A.G.M. April 4th
Hastings Club 10.30a.m.**

Hastings U3A contact number: 03 5979 4280

Email address: info@u3ahastings.org.au



Welcome to all Hastings U3A members, especially the many new members enrolled this year for the first time. Thank you for choosing our organization, I hope you gain from your involvement with us and enjoy your chosen subjects and the company of your class mates. Many of you successfully enrolled online which probably explains why our office based support team often had time on their hands. Nevertheless the whole exercise went well and many of our courses were full by the start of term. Next year we will reduce the office support provided and rely more on online enrolment.

To my absolute pleasure many of our new subjects shot off like a rocket. Pickleball in particular filled up very quickly as did both art groups. Many other groups enjoyed a growth in numbers and have few places left. When you realise that last year we took a bit of a risk by changing the fee structure it was absolutely imperative that we attracted sufficient numbers to achieve enough income to meet our outgoings. I am very pleased to say that we have. Most of our members have expressed satisfaction with the new fee structure and all of our tutors are overjoyed that they no longer have to collect cash, balance it, and take it to the office. Cash caused some difficulties coming in every day as it did, now we still have to handle some but that is only in the office. The majority of payments were by EFTPOS machine so perhaps cash will be used less frequently in the future. The larger Banks are already foreshadowing the demise of cash so perhaps there become a time when all of our members prefer to pay by credit/debit card.

Our organization is becoming increasingly dependent on modern technology. Our online membership system, accepting payment by Bank transfers and EFTPOS and communication via group emails and our Website. We need volunteers who are interested in these tools and can help us manage them. You may think of Hastings U3A as a small club but keeping it running requires management and careful co-ordination and relies on modern technology. Please if you feel that you would like to be part of this team of volunteers do not hesitate to speak to a tutor or one of the committee. We need volunteers to share the load and share their skills in the running of this valuable local organization Hastings U3A.

Finally let me provide an update on our meetings with the Shire. In November 2023 we were informed that our temporary office location Hastings Community Hall is in a need of a major roof repair. We have been shown two alternative locations and have informed the Shire of our preferred location. We have been waiting since November for the Shire to confirm the arrangements. Obviously the thought of moving offices again fills me and the rest of our volunteers with dread but there is no doubt that the Hall roof leaks and so move we must. Lets hope we get a date quite soon-before the autumn and winter rains damage our office equipment.

Mike Wright





COURSE COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Jill Mc Lachlin



A GENEROUS DONATION

Hastings U3A was recently contacted by a local artist who was downsizing and moving back to the city. He had a large cache of art materials and supplies that he wanted to give to a local art group and lucky for us, we were the group he chose.

On picking up the art materials we discovered he had an entire careful of things he wanted to give us, including boards, artists paper, frames, inks, easels, pencils, pens, paints, tools, brushes and lots more.

The materials were all shared between our Acrylics and our Watercolours classes, where students spent much of their first class of the year picking through the boxes and boxes of art supplies with much delight. Just about everything was snapped up!

A big thankyou to the artist concerned for thinking of Hastings U3A and helping to provide our Art classes with a fantastic supply of materials for future use .



VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED TO ASSIST OUR COURSE COORDINATOR

You would work from home under direction of our Course Coordinator as and when required.

These are NOT Committee positions.

Volunteer to design and update course posters and display in office

Volunteer to book venues: liaise with venue providers and tutors - some venues use online systems others are contacted by phone.

Volunteer to monitor emails received by courses@u3ahastings.org.au. Reply to general email where necessary or refer for handling by others.

Volunteer to produce new course schedule each term, update as required and ensuring that office has sufficient up to date supplies.



**Situations
Vacant**



OTHER VOLUNTARY POSITIONS

Are you an organised person? We need a volunteer to help organise functions such as the AGM, Morning Tea Events and Enrolment. The ability to send and receive emails would be required.

A Volunteer would need to contact venues to make bookings/catering arrangements and issue a volunteer schedule for each event - preferably a Committee position commencing April 2024.

GRANTS OFFICER- during the year we occasionally apply for grants for equipment from Esso Australia, Bendigo Bank and Mornington Shire. The ability to send and receive emails would be required. We only apply for grants if there is a need for financial assistance. Preferably a **Committee position commencing April 2024.**

COMMITTEE POSITIONS

VICE PRESIDENT

required to stand in for President and chair Committee meetings when President unable to carry out duties.

After a year as Vice President the candidate would be expected to nominate for President - Mike Wright will be standing down in 2025 so it is important to have an experienced volunteer in place ready to take on the Presidency in 2025.

There are 8 Committee meetings a year.

SECRETARY

required- must be able to use a pc, submit annual return to Consumer Affairs (with the aid of Treasurer), collect mail from mail box, issue notices for AGM and Agendas for Committee meetings etc take minutes when Minute Secretary not available

There are 8 Committee meetings a year.



GROUP REPORTS

*This Month's
feature*

Current Affairs

with Don Clayton

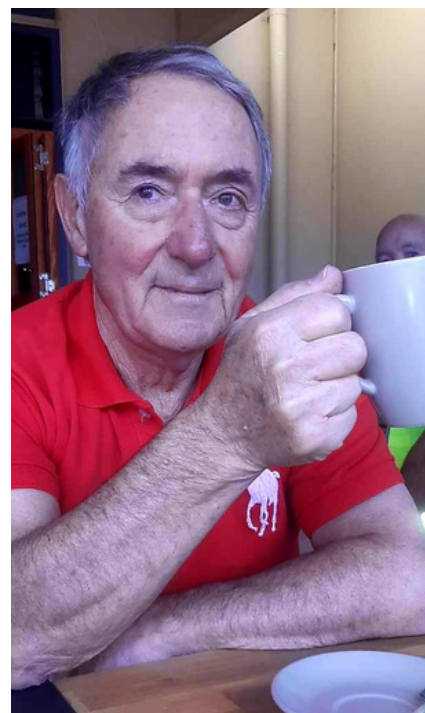


Don Clayton who is our tutor did a lot of travel in Asia, Europe and America before enjoying a corporate career which included work in business and government. He studied ancient and modern history whilst doing his graduate study in psychology and has maintained an ongoing interest in global affairs, as well as local politics.

Don is thus interested in the major players in current affairs as well as their actions. He is keen for the group to learn from each other's backgrounds as well as from a little deeper personal research where this is agreed upon.

The U3A Hastings Current Affairs group agenda is driven by the members. Some people are interested in local and Victorian politics, others in the national scene, still others in global affairs. Corruption, climate, conflict in the Ukraine and Palestine, Australia's future, America's leaders all get a regular outing in our 2 hour sessions.

We generally have a coffee at the 1 hour mark which may involve doughnuts or a cake. Our sessions are designed to give respectful and equal airtime to all members with the focus on learning rather than winning.



The current group is a mixed and unpretentious bunch which Don believes adds to its fun and its value. We don't necessarily have similar backgrounds or points of view. We can wade in or sit back depending on the theme. New members are welcome and capacity to eat cake and doughnuts, (plus possibly unrelated healthy snacks) is advantageous





NEW COURSES STARTING IN TERM 2

In Term 2 we have several new courses starting up. If you are interested you can enrol now either online or by coming into the office.

How about:

Card Making - A 6-week short course commencing 15th April and running weekly on Mondays, 10.00 – 12.00

This class will cater to those who have never made greeting cards before as well as those who have had some experience but would like to expand their skills.

There will be a charge of \$6 per class for materials and you will produce 2 greeting cards per class.

Beginners Computing - commencing 18th April and running weekly on Thursdays, 10.00 – 11.00

Help to get you started in using a computer.

Computer Tasks - Commencing 18th April and running weekly on Thursdays, 11.00 – 12.00 (PLEASE NOTE: THIS CLASS IS ALREADY FULL BUT YOU CAN WAITLIST FOR IT)

Broad-based course to help you organize files and folders and use printers and scanners.

Assistance with problems and help with internet and email.

Bridge - Commencing 16th April and running weekly on Tuesdays, 1.30 – 4.00

This is a Social Bridge Group for those who have completed the Learn to Play Bridge course in Term 1 or for those who have up-to-date bridge-playing experience.

Corner-to-Corner Crochet for Beginners - A 6-week short course commencing 15th April and running weekly on Mondays, 10.00 – 11.00

Corner to Corner crochet is a crochet technique that is stitched diagonally from one corner that by the end looks like a textured granny square. It's great for blankets, shawls, scarves, and even homewares, however as a beginner, you may want to start with a washcloth.

Courses commencing in Term 3

Learn to Play Mahjong with Sandra Oluich





CABIN AND CARAVAN Group



The annual BBQ for the cabin and caravan group was held on Sunday 21st January at the home of Sue Gibson. The occasion was a great opportunity to welcome new members Linda, Don, John and Marylin. After much deliberation and discussion of dates a decision was made to visit Paynesville late April/early May and Robe SA in November. Interest in free camping has increased and during the year we will be organising a getaway for those with self contained caravans/campers and tents. Details of all getaways will be emailed to members of the cabin and caravan group.

Julie Wright

PICKLEBALL



After 12 months of discussions with the Shire we have finally commenced our pickleball course at Bittern Memorial Stadium. It was great to meet so many new members of Hastings U3A and to hear such lovely comments about some of the courses that they had already attended. Our thanks go to Brendan for his role as group leader along with his guidance on how to play this fun sport. We look forward to an exciting future with Pickleball at Hastings U3A.

Cycling Group



Predicting the weather must be a thankless task. Last week a Queensland resident was on the news up to his ankles in water in his home. The speed at which the downpour came had caught him by surprise and, according to the man, the weather forecaster had only warned that there was going to be a considerable amount of rain in his area. Not where, when or how bloody fast! It is a frequent dilemma we in the cycling group have to deal with. How much do you believe the forecaster? Don Clayton must have some sympathy with the man because last week after a full month of planning and organizing and zoom meetings he had to cancel the cycling trip he had put together because the forecaster predicted a scorching hot day in Cowes.

So instead we went for a much earlier cycle ride (a full hour earlier-much against my body clocks liking) and it didn't get scorching until later in the day when we had planned to safely ensconced back on board the return ferry. So undeterred we rebooked for the following week and blow me down after almost an entire week of comfortable weather conditions with predictions for Phillip Island much more acceptable, the forecast changed, and what do you know, we were back to very similar conditions, perhaps 1 degree cooler.

This time we were not to be deterred. So it was an early start and before you could raise a bead of sweat we were at San Remo tucking into fish & chip breakfasts. Yes I know not very healthy but enjoyable nonetheless. Anyway we had a fantastic ride just over 1 hour each way with stunning views. Everyone coped admirably and there was even talk of a return trip as we sailed back across to Stoney Point.

Thanks to everyone, especially Don, for making it such a memorable occasion.

Most of our cycling is around Western Port encompassing routes around Hastings, Balnarring, Bittern and Somerville but as you can see we do have the odd away day when weather permits.

We meet at Hastings at 09.00 on Thursdays and at Bittern Station on Sundays at 09.30.

Contact me first to avoid disappointment

Mike Wright



Petanque



Everyone enjoyed the first petanque get together of the year. Even the sun was shining! The next meet up will be, 10am on Saturday 9th March at Garden Square in Somers. There are still a few places on this course so, why not enrol?

Sue Barron



SPEAKER FOR MARCH

Antarctica

Work Rest and Play

with Edwina Hollander

Thursday 14th March 2024

2pm

Hastings Hall

followed by Afternoon Tea

Enrol online now - available to all members.



'ANTARCTICA - WORK, REST AND PLAY'

Thursday 14th March at 2 pm - Hastings Hall

Followed by Afternoon Tea

Edwina will share with us her experiences from her voyages to Antarctica. Her presentation 'Antarctica – work, rest, and play' and will reveal an insight into life at the three Australian Antarctic research stations. Following her passion for the marine environment from a young age, Edwina completed a degree in environmental science with a major in marine biology, followed by a science research Honours degree in Antarctic science. Edwina also has research experience ranging from working with sea turtles in tropical Australia and the Galapagos Islands, as well as multiple research voyages to Antarctica, working on projects with Adélie penguins and Antarctic krill. She also returned to the Antarctic as a wildlife guide aboard a cruise ship, accompanying tourists to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and the Antarctic Peninsula.

Edwina has since worked in various science communication and media roles including organizations such as CSIRO, as well as organizations in Asia and Europe.

If you would like to attend this event please go to UMAS and enroll online for 24SPE01 – Antarctica Work Rest and Play, or go into the **U3A Office on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 10 am and 12 noon to enrol**

Our speaker for April will be Terry Dyson speaking on Mobile Phone Plans

Hastings



*Other Groups...***Philosophy with Roger Stanley****Patchwork with Denis Harrison****Dancing for Fun and Fitness with Sue Gibson****Ageless Grace with Karen Scatchard****Bridge Lessons for Beginners with Alison Farthing****Cards, Tiles and Board Games with Jill McLachlan****Scrabble with Duncan Ramsay****French (Beginners, Intermediate, and Advanced) with****Marie-Therese White****German with Peter Weber****Italian with Frank La Monica****Book Club with Glenys Austin****Books to Remember with Gillian Toley****Mindfulness and Meditation with Tom Thomas****Music Appreciation with Joan & Peter Dillon****Table Tennis with Norm Vicum and Wendy Melling****Golf with John Hallo****Petanque with Sue Barron****Walking with Wendy Melling****Play Reading with Pamela Tulen****Theatre Goers with Valerie Gregory****Arthouse Films with Heather Barson****Gardens, Galleries, and Ghosts with Marilyn Ransom****Luncheon society with Trish Kelly****Gourmet Dining with Roger Stanley & Carole Ferguson****Coffee Morning with Trish Kelly****Quaffers with Mike Wright****FULL CLASSES AND WAITING LISTS**

For the first time ever, quite a number of our classes are already full. It is great that we are becoming more popular, but it can also be challenging for those who want to undertake a particular class and find that they can't get in.

We are doing what we can to provide more places in our most popular classes. We are increasing maximum numbers for some courses and organising to run repeat classes of some of our shorter courses. Over the next couple of weeks we will work with tutors to review attendances in full classes, and remove any enrolments where the member has not attended for three or more consecutive classes and has not advised the tutor of the reason for the absence. This will hopefully free up more places for those waiting to get into courses.

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So what should you do if you want to get into a class that is already full?

The first thing that you should do is enrol now for that course, either online or by attending the office on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday morning. You will then receive a message saying you have been "Waitlisted" for that course.

If you have not already paid an annual membership fee to undertake other courses, do not pay any fees owing at this stage. We will only ask you to pay a membership fee once you have been given a place in the course you are waiting on.

If and when a place becomes available in the course you are waiting on, these places will be allocated first to those on the waiting list, based on the date order in which they enrolled. If you are offered a place in the course, you will be sent an email to that effect and your enrolment in our system will be changed for you from "Waitlist" to "Enrolled".

Do not attend a course that you are "Waitlisted" for until such time as you are notified that you have been moved from the Waitlist and into the class proper.

If we decide to run a repeat of a short course, we will offer anyone still on the waiting list for the original course the first places in the repeat course.

So don't despair - we are doing what we can to get as many people as we can into the classes they want.

OUR MEMBERS 2024



We now have 291 members enrolled for 2024 – and 68 of these are brand-new members.

Gender

Of the 281 enrolled, 210 are female and 71 are male – 3 women to every man!! We need more men to join our ranks, so if you have partners or friends who might be interested, do encourage them to come along.

Ages

We have 10 members aged in their 50's and 11 aged over 85. The largest age group of members is the 71-75 age group.

Classes

And our most popular class – "Dancing for Fun and Fitness" with 49 enrolments

Location

Unsurprisingly, 105 of our members (or 37.5%) live in Hastings. All but 12 of our members live on the Mornington Peninsula. And the member (one of our tutors) who travels the furthest, comes from Croydon, 70 km away!

U3A Committee Members Contact Details



President
Mike Wright
0418 414 227



Vice President
Wendy Melling
0431 377 929



Secretary
May Watson
0438 472 342



Minutes Secretary
Sue Barron
0424 434 401



Treasurer
Ian Barron
0478624 658



Course Co-Ordinator
Jill McLachlin
0400 912 112



Membership
Marylin Ransome
0412 727 020



**Publicity/
Promotions/
Events**
Julie Wright
0449 900 264



Newsletter
Jan Eyles
0403 180 589



Office Manager
Vacant



Grants
Vacant



Events Set-Up
David Florance
0412 556 764

U3A Hastings AGM notice 2024

HASTINGS U3A INC.
Registration No A00500846E
NOTICE of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All members of U3A Hastings Inc. are hereby notified that our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on:
Thursday 4th April 2024 at 10.30 am for an 11 am Start at the Hastings Club, Marine Parade, Hastings, 3915

The meeting will be followed by light refreshments

RSVP by Thursday 28th MARCH 2024 at info@u3ahastings.org.au or ring 5979 4280

Each one of you has the opportunity to play an important role in the future planning and day-to-day running and growth of U3A Hastings Inc. Your U3A grows with your support and interest.

Live learn enjoy

Nomination Forms and proxy forms are available at the office.

Completed forms for nominations for the Committee must be received at the office Hastings Hall High Street Hastings. no later than 12pm on
Wednesday 27th March 2024

Should you wish to table matters for General Business, please submit items in writing, to be received at our office no later than Wednesday
27th March 2024.

MEMBERS AND LEADERS PLEASE NOTE THAT THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED AND NO CLASSES WILL BE HELD ON THE DAY OF THE AGM
THIS WILL GIVE ALL MEMBERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND.

For catering purposes, please RSVP by Thursday 28th March 2024.
Apologies can be made on 5979 4280 or at info@u3ahastings.org.au

10.30 am until 12pm.

Hastings U3A Inc. PO Box 537 Hastings Vic 3915



ABN25824915887 Inc. No. A0050846E