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Newsletter - June 2017

Please vote on a new Gloucester District U3A constitution.

A notice for this meeting is in this mail-out. Please come to enrolment morning on Monday 17th July and attend a short Special General Meeting at 10.30am so that we may update our constitution.

Your U3A committee rejigged

With the sudden resignation of president Rod Menzel your committee needed to find a new president. Our newly elected vice president, Penny Vavasour, agreed to step into the role if Lyn Stewart came back to help as vice president. The committee agreed and you will see, from the top of this newsletter, that is what happened.

U3A Conference June 2017

Your two delegates attending the U3A Network conference are our president Penny Vavasour and our secretary Cecily Mahoney. Vice president Lyn Stewart is also attending on behalf of the NSW U3A Network as she is an elected member of the Network committee. The conference is a

wonderful opportunity to meet other U3A people and share ideas. If you think you might like to join us for the main conference day in Sydney at the Sydney Town Hall, Thursday 29th June, please let us know. To register go to <http://u3answconference.org>

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S (Penny Vavasour) DESK

Assuming the Presidency

It was a great honour to be elected President by the Committee following the unexpected resignation of Rod Menzel. On behalf of all our members, I would extend a big 'thank you' to Rod for his contributions to U3A and to wish him and Zan every success and happiness in their new lives in Europe. We will all miss them.

I am honoured to be your President. I see this organization as being of such great importance to all of its members and of particular importance to many who regularly and frequently participate in our activities. I am extremely fortunate to have the support of a very dedicated and hard working committee. Between us we will do everything possible to ensure that we provide a wide range of activities that appeal to our members.

We would welcome suggestions for any additional items to add to our programme, improvements or changes to anything that we currently provide

or do. Please either email me (cevavasour@gmail.com) or call me up for a chat on 6558 4434.

Vale

It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of Len Peters, our joint secretary in Gloucester U3A. He was very involved in the community here in the dozen or so years that Len and his late wife, Judy Anne, lived amongst us in gentle retirement. Len was much involved in Lawn Bowls and held various official positions on the U3A committee over the years. Len's association with U3A started when his sister, Cecily Mahoney moved here from Queensland to be his caregiver. Cecily encouraged him to join our group and there was no looking back for Len. He so enjoyed his cards, Mah Jong and was an active participant in Discussion Groups and the like. His gentle humour and steadying hand in committee meetings will be much missed.

Many condolences to Cecily and family.

The two dollar contributions

I have heard that some of our members feel that the two dollars we ask for at the beginning of each activity is unnecessary, and that their subscription at the beginning of the year should be sufficient.

Sadly, that is not the case and your two dollar coins are vital to keeping the group buoyant. We are constantly replacing and replenishing equipment and the fees for the hall hire are a constant issue. Plus there is the administration, printing, postage etc. I could go on and on. Believe me, without those two dollars, we would have to increase the annual subscription by at least three- fold, which directly after the expense of Xmas, would be a bitter pill to swallow! I am sure you will agree that

'two dollars a pop' is 'a much easier on the pocket' way to go. Let's just rationalize – it is just half a cup of coffee! Half a cup of coffee will not give you the laughter and bon homme that a session, for example with Clare at Balance and Bones does!

Xmas party

Oh no, I can hear you say: 'Not now, we haven't had Xmas in July yet!' Well, your Committee is well ahead with our festive plans. We have decided that this year, we will have a Xmas lunch at the SCC. A daytime function, which we think will probably appeal to more people. So please put Thursday 14th December for lunch in your diaries. More details to follow later in the year. We will welcome any suggestions for making this a great and enjoyable afternoon that will start to get us all into The Xmas Spirit.

Maitland Historical Walk

A group of U3A history enthusiasts enjoyed a guided tour through Maitland on 8th May. Led by a guide from the National Trust we saw many historic houses and pubs through West Maitland, an area that has been inundated several times in the past by Hunter River floodwater. Watch for new opportunities for excursions in term 3.


