



Welcome to Term 2 2009

We welcome all our U3A members, both from previous years and new. You should now have all overcome your first term nervousness and be settling into an exciting routine of renewing friendships from last year, having fun and learning astounding facts about all kinds of subjects, that you can slip into your dinner party discussions.

We are continuing to try to make U3A more apparent to the populace by organising information days at local festivals, etc. So far we have attended the Glenbrook Australia Day Festival, and the Penrith Festival. The best advertisement for us at U3A is still your personal recommendation to your neighbours and friends. **“If you only tell one person each week, this will certainly increase our membership over time and bring some enjoyment to other members of our community”**

Three committee members Reg Grace, Brenda Emerson and Tony Bayes

attended the NSW State Council AGM, held at Orange this year on March 24 and 25. A report will be available in the Term 3 newsletter. Our own preparations for the 2010 State Council Conference are progressing apace and we will be requesting volunteers to assist us in the next couple of newsletters, so please check your social engagement entries for **March 9th and 10th, 2010.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Any Newsletter contributions for the Term 3 publication should arrive at the office, attention Newsletter Editor prior to Friday 12 June 2009. Send details to the office or alternatively email : u3anepoff@pnc.com.au Let us know what information or articles interest you, after all it is your newsletter.

President's Report

Term one is ending, and everyone should have settled into another year of enjoyment and learning with friends and Tutors.

It is now under a year until our U3A Chapter hosts the State Conference on **9th and 10th March 2010.** The Conference Committee will now be putting the finishing touches to the Registration Form together with the Conference Programme. As time draws closer we will be looking for assistance from the membership to make the two days run smoothly. This will not entail any prior knowledge of conducting functions so enter the dates in your social engagement diary, and let us know that you are available to assist in handing out literature, guiding people to locations for workshops and ensuring that our visitors are at ease.

Delegates have attended this year's conference in Orange (24/25 March) and I took up the baton, at the completion, to accept the responsibility for next year.

Our attending members distributed preliminary information kits to all conference attendees, and at the close we screened an excellent promotional documentary CD highlighting the tourist

attractions to all that will be attending our conference in 2010. The CD was prepared by our very able publicity officer (Tony Bayes) with enormous assistance from his wife Anne (**well done, you have done our Chapter proud**).

The invitation document was also very well received and this was a combined effort by Sheila Innins, and Anne and Tony Bayes - **thank you all.**

A copy of this promotional CD is available from the U3A office for showing by any Tutor or Class organiser who may wish to do so.

The slogan of - **It pays to advertise** - is apparently working for our group, so far we have had encouraging enrolments with many new faces mingling with the existing membership. I believe that word of mouth is also getting results - so keep up the good work.

Personal recommendation—there is nothing to beat it.

Reg Grace - President

RTA older driver licensing changes

On 1 December 2008 the Roads Traffic Authority introduced changes to the driver licensing system for older drivers. There are four main changes affecting older drivers, 1) medical check-ups from 75 years, 2) practical driving assessments for drivers 85 years and older will take place every two years, 3) Older drivers have the option of taking a driving assessment from home, and 4) older drivers have the option of a modified licence.

If you're an older driver, the main changes that will affect you are:

Annual medical check-ups now start from the age of 75, instead of 80. Eight weeks before your birthday each year, you'll receive a medical report form for your doctor to complete, which you'll need to return to any RTA motor registry.

Practical driving assessments for drivers from the age of 85 will now be every two years (age 85, 87, 89 etc) instead of every year. Drivers now have the option of taking a driving assessment from home. Assessments can be conducted in many areas of NSW by driving instructors accredited by the RTA, on a 'fee for service' basis.

This gives you the option to take an assessment from your home rather than from an RTA motor registry. However, you still have the option of taking the driving assessment from the RTA at no charge.

Drivers have the option of a modified licence and will not be required to take an assessment. If you're still a competent driver but no longer feel comfortable driving in certain situations (for example, driving over long distances), talk to your local RTA motor registry. The manager may issue you with a modified licence based on your individual driving needs. A practical assessment is not required for a modified licence. Visit the RTA website for more info. Download a copy of 'A guide to older driver licensing', this guide contains more detailed information on the new licensing system, including what to expect when you're tested. If you'd like to speak to someone about the new system, including information on accredited assessors, call the RTA Older Driver Hotline on **1300 663 628**.

Smoke Alarm Alert

Fire fighting services say that smoke alarm batteries should be changed every year at least. The sensor should also be checked for any dust or grime build-up.

The end of daylight saving - Sunday, April 5, this year - is an ideal time to have this carried out.

Fire fighting services throughout the nation attend an average of 212 household fires a week.



You are all precious to us at U3A, so **PLEASE** have your alarms checked.



Lawson 21 January 2009

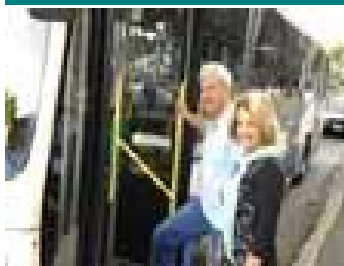
Many thanks to all the Tutors and Volunteers who so generously donated their time and effort, assisting with manning the stalls and enrolment desks, both at Lawson and Penrith.



Penrith 23 January 2009

We have had quite a considerable increase in applications for the many courses available, so much so that a number of classes are full and even overflowing. Such enthusiasm for learning gives a real sense of achievement to all our Tutors and Volunteers for the effort that they put in on your behalf. **Show your enthusiasm by telling us about your impressions of the classes you attend.**

Interstate transport concessions



NSW Seniors Card holders can now access public transport concessions when travelling interstate as part of a new scheme funded

by the Australian Government.

For example, a NSW Seniors Card holder travelling to Melbourne is entitled to purchase public transport fares at the same concessional price as Victorian Seniors Card holders.

Seniors visiting NSW from other states or territories will also be able to get concession fares on NSW public transport. Holders of Seniors Cards from other Australian States and Territories can purchase either half fare concession tickets or a \$2.50 Pensioner Excursion Ticket (PET) for all day, multi-modal (bus, train and ferry) travel in the

Sydney Metropolitan Area and Outer Metropolitan Areas.

The new scheme commenced on 1 January in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory. In Queensland interstate Seniors Card holders can access a 50% concession on metropolitan bus, rail and ferry services and a 25% discount on long-distance Traveltrain services. Discussions with the Western Australian Government are continuing.

A uniform system across Australia will help seniors travel interstate to see family and friends and makes domestic travel more affordable.

For more information on concession fares contact the Transport Information line directly on **131500**

or visit www.131500.com.au

U3A Term 2 Courses The office will be closed from 9 - 27 April

The following courses will commence in Term 2. Contact the Tutor to check for vacancies and make bookings.

Undertaking a Building Project

Mondays 11.00am to 12.00 noon commencing 27 April 2009.—6 week's duration
Penrith School of Arts (Room 1), 3 Castlereagh Street, Penrith
Michael Boyle - 47514229

3. What is Good Design?

Mondays 2.00pm to 3.00pm commencing 27 April 2009.
Penrith School of Arts (Room 1), 3 Castlereagh Street, Penrith
Michael Boyle - 47514229

Philosophy with Hedi

Fridays 9.30am to 10.45am commencing fortnightly 1 May 2009, and Fridays 11.00am to 12.15pm
Penrith School of Arts (Room 1), 3 Castlereagh Street, Penrith
Hedi Roggeveen - 47322978

Atlas of the Universe

Tuesdays 10.00am to 12.00 noon commencing 28 April 2009 - New Course added.

Penrith School of Arts (Room 1), 3 Castlereagh Street, Penrith

Thursdays 10.00am to 12.00 noon commencing 30 April 2009

Springwood Neighbourhood Centre
Anthony Bayes 47392661

Please note: this course is full at Springwood.



This photograph shows Ken Salmons, a long-time member of U3A, receiving his cheque for \$450.00 as the winner of Guessing Competition No.1 in December 2008.

We thank all our members and friends, including the other 9 weekly winners of \$50.00, who took part in this competition, as we raised \$1000.00 towards the 2010 Conference Fund. Once again **THANK YOU** one and all, especially all those members who helped to sell the tickets.

Exercise your mind—a game to train your brain.



What do you see?

In black you can read the word GOOD, in white the word EVIL (inside each black letter is a white letter).



Now what do you see?

You may not see it at first, but the white spaces read the word optical, the landscape reads the word illusion.



And finally what do you see?

This one is quite tricky!
The word TEACH reflects as LEARN.

U3A Cuppa Club

After last year's Biggest Morning Tea success it's on again. Australia's Biggest Morning Tea helps the fight against Cancer, the money raised will aid education programmes, research and support services for individuals diagnosed with cancer and their families.

THURSDAY 28 MAY 2009

U3A @ 3 Castlereagh Street, PENRITH

TIME : 11.30am

Please bring a small plate of food and a donation. Tea and coffee will be provided.

There will also be a "*Bring and Buy*" stall, so you can clean out your cupboards and aid a good cause as well.

COME AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS.



EVERY CUP COUNTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

Enrolment Days - Photographs courtesy of David Evans



Lawson 21 January 2009



Penrith 23 January 2009

All quiet on the Western Front

On Thursday 15th January our president Reg "Biggles" Grace celebrated his 70th birthday with a plane flight, organised by his family.



Such is the fearsome reputation of our illustrious president that as he patrolled the skies in his Sopwith Camel aircraft looking for any intruders, it is understood that the "Red Baron" phoned in sick and did not venture out that day.

So you can see that not only does U3A keep your brain fit by looking after your educational requirements but we provide protection for your home and person so that you can sleep easily in your beds knowing that the skies are safe.

BUS TRIP WEDNESDAY 3 JUNE 2009

First stop today will be Erina for a visit to St Fiacre Distillery. Take a deep breath at the front gate, relax your mind as we slip into a green and fragrant land. Morning tea will be served in the garden café. Afterwards enjoy a stroll in the gardens to take in the fragrance, and a tour of the distillery with a tasting of the Australian liqueurs. We then travel on to Wyong and the Strathavon Heritage Resort, a grand stately manor filled with atmosphere and history of a bygone era. Here we will partake in a 1930's style luncheon menu, one of those yummy meals of yesteryear. We will also enjoy a "Skeletons in the Closet" family history presentation by a historian. Ever wondered about your family history? Discover who you really are! Today will be your chance to see what you can find out.

Cost for this most informative and interesting day out will be **\$55.00** per person.

The coach will depart from Panthers at 8.00am.

Full payment for this tour will be accepted at the office from **Tuesday 28 April, 2009**. (commencement date of 2nd term). However the final date for payment, providing seats are not sold out, will be **Friday 22 May, 2009**.

COME ALONG WITH US AND ENJOY A GREAT DAY OUT



The Management Committee and all the staff at U3A wish all our members and their families a very Happy Easter.

As it is a celebration period, you may all indulge in those Easter goodies, hot cross buns and chocolate Easter eggs and the like. This will count as one of your four allowable annual indulgence periods. The other three are your Birthday, your Anniversary and Christmas. You must return to your diet on Tuesday 14 April.



News from the Classes

CAKE DECORATING

Hi everyone,
Just letting you know that the 2008 Cake Decorating Class aka Sugar Plum fairies has yet again had a very happy ending to the year as all students finished the year by decorating so many Christmas cakes in such variety that they were all pleased with themselves. Sophia, our Tutor, said she was very proud of the good effort made by all students and was pleased to see the end results of a year well spent. Sophia, gave each of the students several photographs of various cakes she made to aid our memories of what we had learnt throughout the past year **Thank you Sophia.** Several people are leaving the Cake Decorating Class this year to venture into other U3A activities so to Marion, Myra, Patricia and Jacqueline we say a fond farewell. To our new students we say **Welcome** and to those that are returning we say good to see you again and a big welcome back.

Great work Sophia. Thank You.

ASTRONOMY CLASS

Could I offer my thanks for the interesting courses you have been conducting throughout 2008. I cannot pretend to have understood all of it, but I remain in awe of someone who can speak with knowledge and understanding of what is certainly a very complex subject, and who is able to present it with a clarity which has enabled all of us to have increased our knowledge and benefited from the experience—even if we may have struggled to pass the exam!! Thanks again for yet another interesting year with Tony Bayes—not to mention the added attraction of the lucky dips.

Regards

John Harvey.



Will You Help?

2008 Springwood Foundation Day Parade



We will have an Information Stall, again this year, at the Springwood Foundation Day Parade in Springwood. This parade will be held on **Saturday, April 4**

and runs from 9.00am to 4.00pm and is also a local celebration not to be missed. **The stall will be located in position 105 adjacent to Springwood railway station in Macquarie Road.** Once again, to enable us to provide a complete presence and promote our Organisation, we would appreciate any assistance in manning the stall throughout the day, for a 30 minute or 60 minute period to allow our other members to take a break. So please make an attempt to help out; **If you can assist in this matter please contact Tony Bayes on 47392661**

Saturday 30 May 2009



We will be conducting a "sausage sizzle" at **BUNNINGS WAREHOUSE**, Penrith on Saturday 30 May 2009 from 9am to 3pm to raise funds for the 2010 Conference fund and we are seeking some willing workers to donate one hour of their time in manning the BBQ and collecting monies from the patrons.

The famous Bunnings Sausage Sizzle is enjoyed by thousands of Bunnings customers every weekend of the year, whilst also providing a valuable



fundraising opportunity for local community groups. All of the funds raised are kept by the community group conducting the Sausage Sizzle.

U3A News

Life Membership Awards

Following the approval of members at our Annual general Meeting in November 2008, a special event was arranged for the presentation of Life Membership Awards, by the President Reg Grace, to the six members who were awarded this honour.

Marie Kocek

Muriel McIlroy, unfortunately unable to attend.

Hedi Roggeveen

Judith Hill

Jim Kinder

Eileen Clelland



NOTE:

The office will be closed over the Term break from 2pm on Thursday 9 April to 10am on Monday 27 April 2009. Classes will be conducted to the timetable times on each of these days.

In Memoriam

VALE. Hans Frank

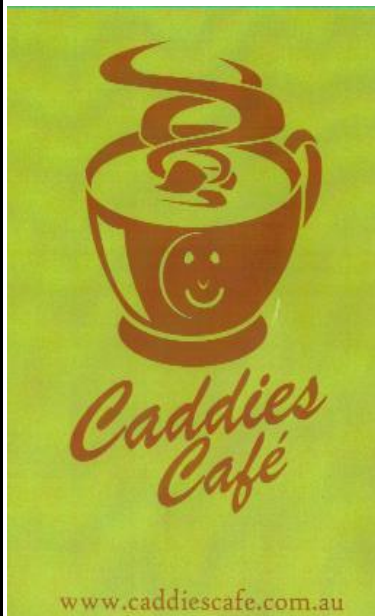
It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of one of our stalwart members and former Tutor, Hans Frank.

Hans passed away on Thursday 12 March 2009 at Buckland Aged Care Centre, Springwood and the funeral was conducted at Pine Grove on Monday 16 March 2009.

He will be remembered, with affection, by his many former students and U3A members for his unparalleled enthusiasm for his subject of European History.

From all his friends at U3A .

Support the people who support us.



When you next visit the U3A office don't forget to cross the road, pop in, have a snack and a chat at:-

Caddies Café

BYO—Eat in or Take Away.

Fine food and Exquisite coffee.

"A proud supporter of U3A"

ANY INFORMATION OR PROBLEMS WITH THE CURRICULUM PLEASE CALL ALAN LEES on 4736 5541

**University of The Third Age
Nepean Blue Mountains Chifley Chapter
3 Castlereagh Street
Penrith, 2750
(Between High Street and Tindale Street)**

**Postal Address: PO Box 958
Penrith, 2751**

**Phone : (02) 4722 3405
Office Hours: 10.00am - 2.00pm
Monday to Friday during U3A Terms**

**Email: u3anepoff@pnc.com.au
Website: www.u3anepean.org**

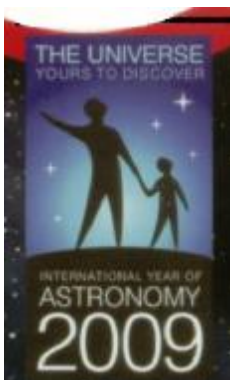
2009 Office Bearers

These are your appointed Officers.
President - Reg Grace Ph. 4739 4843
Vice President - Nepean Hedi Roggeveen
- Ph. 4732 2978
Vice President - Blue Mountains - Kate Litchfield
- Ph. 47591943
Secretary - Brenda Emerson - Ph. 4721 1735
Treasurer - Linda Sinclair - Ph. 4739 2297
Membership Officer - Doreen Ellis - 4739 3160
Publicity Officer - Anthony Bayes - 4739 2661
Committee Members
Alan Lees - Curriculum Convener - 4736 5541
Shirley Gould - Hall Manager Ph. 4731 4176
Tony Sherry—Ph. (02) 43881551
Susan Bentley—Ph. 47774112

If undeliverable return to
University of The Third Age
Nepean Blue Mountains Chifley Chapter Inc.
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Newsletter
Term 2, 2009**



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