

[HOME](#)

[PHOTOS](#)

[CLASSES](#)

[NEWSLETTERS](#)

[LINKS](#)

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Nepean - Blue Mountains - Chifley Chapter Inc.

Postal Address: P.O. Box 958, Penrith 2751

3 Castlereagh Street, Penrith 2750

Phone: (02) 4722 340

U3A NETWORK – NSW 2010 STATE CONFERENCE AND AGM

This much anticipated and planned for event was held on Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th at the Penrith RSL Club, 8 Tindale Street, Penrith.

Prior to the commencement of the conference however, an informal get together was held in our U3A Nepean Office, on the Monday evening. Delegates were welcomed with drinks and nibblies. Thanks must go to Chris Price and her helpers, who prepared a number of tasty treats for all.

The conference was well attended on both days, with 202 delegates on Day 1, 138 delegates on Day 2, and 132 delegates attending the conference dinner.

The whole event ran like clockwork, commencing with a “Welcome to Country” by Uncle Greg Simms and didgeridoo player Aaron Stephens. Reg Grace our Conference Chairman, welcomed everyone to the conference.

Penrith Mayor His Worship Councillor Kevin Crameri OAM welcomed the delegates to Penrith, followed by Her Excellency, The Governor Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, who declared the conference open.

The day continued on after morning tea, as per the program, with guest speaker Barbara Holborow, Retired Childrens Magistrate. Barbara kept the audience wrapt with stories of cases brought before her in the courtroom over the years. We laughed with her, and sometimes shed a tear, and could happily have listened to her all day long. She was given a great applause at the end of her speech.

After an excellent lunch Noeline Brown, Ambassador for Ageing, gave an interesting talk on the theme of the conference “Learning with Friendship”.

Workshops on day one were very well received by delegates, with tutors Roger French, “Food & Nutrition”, Tony Bayes “ Astronomy – The Cosmic Connection”, Petr Malek “Photography” and “Tai Chi” by Marie Stewart, all of which went off without a hitch.

The conference dinner was much enjoyed by all those delegates attending. The Penrith RSL Club served an excellent three course dinner, and we were entertained by the female harmony duo "Double Exposure". A television set was the lucky door prize on the night, and as luck would have it, it was won by our conference chairman Reg Grace.

Day 2 started off with the Annual General Meeting for the majority of the delegates, but for those people not interested in the meeting, there was entertainment provided by our line dancers, and the Tai Chi fan class, followed by the Vietnam Veterans Interactive workshop.

Following morning tea guest speaker Judith Dunn spoke on "Colonial Ladies – Lovely, Lively and Lamentably Loose". On Thursday following the conference, Judith took a busload of delegates to explore our convict heritage around the Parramatta area. Excellent reports of the day have come back from those people who were on the tour.

Following another excellent lunch provided by the Penrith RSL, and their hardworking, efficient team, we went on to hear guest speaker Cliff Picton on "U3A – The Unintended Consequences of Drinking Coffee", followed by Joe Harman speaking on "The Wisdom of the Ages".

Workshops on Day 2 were provided by Snr Const Julie Passau on "Crime Prevention" and a representative from Telstra talking about mobile phones and broadband.

A highlight of the second afternoon was the cutting of the 21st birthday cake by Freda Whitlam, Life Member of Nepean – Blue Mountains – Chifley Chapter U3A. This cake was made and decorated by Sophia -, tutor, Cake Decorating class on Tuesday mornings, with the assistance of her students.

A number of prizes were given out over the two days of the conference. These were mainly donated by Cartridge World, "The Good Guys" and "Odyssey Travel".

We were very fortunate indeed to be assisted by grants from the NSW State Government, the Penrith City Council, and financial contributions from other organisations and individuals. Money was also raised for the conference by the running raffles, 200 clubs, holding a BBQ at Bunnings, second hand book sales, and Devonshire teas on enrolment days in 2009.

The success of the conference was acknowledged by all those attending. The quality of the speakers, and the workshop presenters, the volunteers, who gave their

time to help everything run smoothly, the conference sub committee members, all of these people played their part in the undoubted success of the conference.

The Penrith RSL Club also played a large role in making the conference the great success it was. The willing co-operation of the staff, from the early planning stages right through to the end of the conference, was a very big factor. The meals provided were excellent, the food was provided on time, and cleared away with a minimum of fuss. Many great comments were received from delegates about the role of the club.

Some of the comments received were “ I have been to 4 or 5 of these conferences, and this one was the best of all”, “The last time I saw such happy and willing volunteers was at the Olympic Games in 2000”, “What a great conference” . This has been the type of feedback we have been receiving. There have been emails congratulating our U3A and so on. Still coming.

To everyone who has participated in one way or the other in the putting on of this conference, a very big thank you, what a great job you have done, it has been an exhilarating ride. We can take pride and satisfaction in knowing that our U3A put on a truly great conference.

Thank you.

Brenda Emerson

Secretary

PLEASE NOTE:

A report of the Conference has been posted on the U3A Network Website. To read it [CLICK HERE](#).

That report also has a collection of seventy-eight interesting photographs from the conference. To view them [CLICK HERE](#) then select a gallery to see the images. You will then need to click on each individual thumbnail in order to see them at full size.