

From the President

Welcome back to a new term at Brunswick Valley U3A. Our Tuesday Forums start on April 30 when we will have the pleasure of the company of Jan Mangleson who will present on the early history of Ocean Shores. Jan will use the great collection of material that was assembled for the recent celebration of Shores' 50th anniversary.

Visit to Friends of the Koala Rescue Centre

Our outing for first term was a trip to Lismore to follow up on an invitation from a recent guest speaker to visit the HQ and Rescue Centre of Friends of the Koala. Mark from the Centre gave us an excellent presentation followed by a tour of the facility (see more below). Thanks to all members who made the trip and to Denise who organised the morning tea.

We make an excursion in lieu of a guest speaker on the last Tuesday of every term. We'll announce this term's destination soon. Join us next time - we have fun.

U3A Network NSW Conference

Denise and I also attended the Network NSW Conference at Tamworth in the last week of term. The Network intends to take a higher profile in the U3A movement in NSW and has developed a number of resources to assist clubs in improving aspects of governance and compliance with intellectual property (copyright) laws. Also, the Network has negotiated insurances for personal injury and for liability that might be incurred by club officers and course leaders in areas other than that covered by our current public liability policy. I have already presented information to the committee and will give members further information on these matters before the committee makes its decision. Our Tuesday Forum presentation on May 14, entitled *U3A - A New Era*, will explain the reasons for the new direction as well as providing information about the new opportunities that are being made available.

Club Constitution

The Network's Governance Officer, a retired barrister and solicitor, has drafted a Constitution Template for NSW U3As. This has saved me some work. I will have a draft for discussion by members up on the website soon. Currently, our club is governed by the Model Constitution offered by the Department of Fair Trading. I will present on what I see as the advantages of a U3A oriented constitution in due course. I would love to discuss these matters with any interested members and expand the relatively small circle of interest in matters of club governance. Approach me at Tuesday Forum or ring me on 0413 060 010 if you would like to be part of the sub-committee working on the new constitution.

Roger Curran
President
0413 060 010

April 9 – Friends of the Koala outing

We had a latish start to our Friends of the Koala Lismore excursion. A few of our members, including the president, had a spot of bother finding the Rescue Centre, in spite of the maps that were provided. But it was well worth the wait. Mark Wilson, our Education Officer, provided us with an excellent presentation. He spoke for about 40 minutes on various aspects of caring for koalas - loss of habitat, how to distinguish between male and female, how to distinguish between healthy and sick, peculiar aspects of koala personality, the nature of their food source, their reluctance to change locality, what to do when faced with an injured or distressed koala - to

name just a few. Mark also spoke about the nature of the work that the hundreds of volunteers undertake in order to keep Friends of the Koala running.

When another FoK volunteer, Mark Ambrose addressed us at a Tuesday Forum last year, he spoke for about an hour on various aspects of caring for koalas. It was interesting to note how little information was duplicated in the two presentations. The Marks spoke about different aspects of koala care, related to their different roles. Mark Wilson is manager of the nursery where the food trees are propagated and then sold or given to landowners to renew suitable koala habitat. Mark Ambrose spoke more about his role as a koala handler. There is so much to learn about these endearing creatures - the more volunteers you talk to, the more you learn.



One of the volunteer keepers, Marley, interrupted the presentation to introduce Triumph. Triumph looked very cute as he snuggled into Marley. But Triumph is an exception. He was born with a missing back foot. He has been raised in the Rescue Centre, cared for largely by Marley. Because of his condition he will never be released into the wild, unlike the koalas that are successfully treated.. But there is more to it than that. Because of his missing leg Triumph cannot climb trees, so special arrangements are made in his purpose built cage. He also cannot mate as a result of his missing foot. That problem is being addressed at the moment.

The mind boggles! But Triumph's story illustrates the care, dedication and ingenuity of the volunteers as well as the range of research and development that is required for so many aspects of koala care.

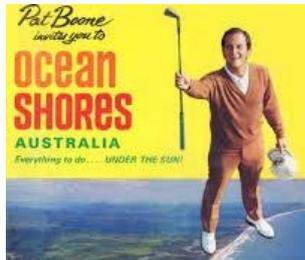
We did not handle the koalas ourselves as we were informed how they can sometimes be a bit tricky. But we did go for a walk around the area where they were recuperating so were able to see them going about their daily routine. We were lucky to see them awake as koalas sleep for 18 hours a day. Thanks to Corrie and Prema for the photos.



Tuesday Forum Speakers for April and May

April 30 – Jan Mangleson

50 Years of Ocean Shores



Ocean Shores recently celebrated its 50th anniversary with a dinner at the Country Club – itself a central piece in the Ocean Shores story. Part of the celebration was a presentation showing images of the old Ocean Shores, the sales campaign surrounding the development and the personalities involved. Jan will show this presentation as well as telling us about some of the amazing pioneering women of the district.

May 14 – Roger and Denise Curran

A New Era



Roger and Denise recently attended *Defy Expectations*, the Network NSW conference in Tamworth. Many new pieces of information pertaining to U3As came to light, some involving the need for a review of current practices. There are also some significant opportunities available to us. Find out about the *New Era* for U3A in Australia and in the Brunswick

Valley.

May 21 – Alan McLean

Slice the Mainbrace



Rum has been an integral part of powerful navies of the world; a sedative for childbirth; anaesthesia prior to surgical procedures; a substitute system of currency; a preventative for Scurvy disease; and a “contra” for infrastructure development. A regular presenter, Alan will tell us why the Brits are known as Limeys - the Dutch gave you courage - and the real truth

about sweet Fanny Adams.

May 28 – Pete Ceglinski and Mahi Paquette

The Seabin Project



One of the goals for the Seabin Project is to provide practical and tangible solutions to reduce the plastics in our oceans which is one of the world's major problems. Pete and Mahi will tell us how their journey started with a simple idea: if we can have rubbish bins on land then why not have them

in the ocean? The Seabin Project is now being recognised through international awards for commitment to sustainability practices, product design, service, and social responsibility.