

From the President

Welcome back to U3A for 2019. I hope that all members are well and refreshed and looking forward to their favourite activities and getting back together with their friends.

Last year finished with our Christmas Trivia at Tuesday Forum and the Men's Shed Raffle Draw. Thanks to Denise Curran for organising the Trivia Quiz and preparing the morning tea. The event was well-attended and a lot of fun. Our local MHR, Justine Elliott, made a guest appearance at the Men's Shed to draw the winning ticket for the Dining Table Raffle. Congratulations to the Men's Shed members for their success in promoting their raffle at the Mullum Show and the Brunswick Market.

I spent a lot of time in Brisbane in January and February attending to the sort of crisis that strikes in our families when older parents suddenly lose their independence. A number of matters that I had intended to address over the break unfortunately remain unresolved as a consequence.

Over the holiday period I was accepted as the Northern Region representative on the NSW U3A Network Committee. I will be attending a meeting of the committee in Sydney early next week. This dovetails with a planned trip to celebrate our wedding anniversary so you will miss the company of Denise and I at the first Tuesday Forum of the year. On our return the following week we will get back to some of the housekeeping matters which I foreshadowed last year.

At our February meeting I asked your committee for ideas on how we can improve our support for the activity groups and course leaders. Committee members represent, between them, most of our activities. Thursday Group and Men's Shed are two notable omissions. I'll catch up with these groups in the next couple of weeks so please give it some thought so you can raise issues with me.

Last night (6 February) I attended the Lions Club dinner for the Driver Reviver volunteers and I was impressed by the number of U3A members in attendance. This a good sign that the club plays some part in keeping us active and interested in our broader community.

Lastly, please think about what new activities we might be able to adopt. Are you a member of a seniors oriented local group that might benefit from coming under the umbrella of Brunswick Valley U3A? We offer a corporate structure, liability insurance, bank account and a newsletter and we are looking to expand our membership to capture some future leaders.

Roger Curran
President
0413 060 010

Vale Don Mulcahy



The Men's Shed lost one of its original members in early January with the passing of Don Mulcahy. Don was aged 82 and had been battling brain cancer. Here is Don (2nd from right) with other Men's Shed members in this photo from the Byron Shire News on the occasion of the presentation of the Remembrance Seat at the Cenotaph in Brunswick Heads

Orchid Workshops



For the past two years BVU3A, The Ocean Shores Garden Club and Byron District Orchid Society have joined forces to participate in two sets of orchid workshops run by Ken Wood, a Ballina U3A member. Nareda Price made her home and yard in Mullumbimby available for one of these. Understandably Nareda has decided not to continue this year. Thank you Nareda for your efforts in what was a very difficult time for you.

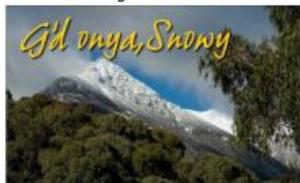
This year Ken Wood will be conducting only one set of workshops which will be on the second Saturday of the month at the home of Judy Williams, 12 Pandanus Court Brunswick Heads. Several of our members have found this a more convenient time/location and have attended these workshops, so it won't be a big change for them. We start gathering from 8.30 for a cuppa and chat and the class goes from 9-11. The cost is \$13 per session which covers morning tea, the printed material and a voucher for \$10 to buy orchids or orchid products that Ken has available.

The first workshop is THIS SATURDAY 9 February, so please come along and check us out.

Penny Fox

Tuesday Forum - February speakers

February 12 – Alan McLean



G'd On Ya Snowy. The Snowy River Scheme is most significant attempt to date to improve our nation's supply of dependable water and eco-friendly electricity. How gold opened the area; the world's first ski club; assimilation of early migrants plus ongoing environmental concerns. Alan will entertain with anecdotes of being amongst the earliest tourists to attempt the infamous Geehi Wall.

February 19 – Mark Sieffert / Liz Hawkins



Be Connected
Every Australian online.

Many members will know Mark as the friendly face of Brunswick Heads library. Mark will introduce the special program which is running at local libraries – Be Connected. This program provides a free, one-on-one service to help you with general computer information or getting you up and running with Be Connected online classes.



Dr Elizabeth Hawkins is the Executive Officer and Founding Director of Dolphin Research Australia. Our oceans and their inhabitants are under ever increasing pressure as a result of human interference and activities.

Liz will tell us how we can step up and be empowered to take action and positive steps to assist in saving the oceans and all marine life.

February 26 – Phillip Hood and Marie Whealing



You may have seen Brunswick Heads based amateur astronomers Phillip Hood and Marie Whealing offering their regular star gazing activities in the evenings by the river in Bruns. Today they will visit us to tell us about the amazing night sky, from the comfort of our cushioned chairs. It's not quite the same thing as being outside in the dark looking through a telescope,

but Phillip and Marie are fonts of knowledge and will share their many stories with us.