

[President's Comments](#) | [AGM photos](#) | [Men's Shed News](#) | [Budget Implications for Retiree Finances](#) | [Moya Sayer-Jones](#) | [Our Newest Author](#) | [The Uke Bewdies](#) | [Term 4 Tuesday Forum speakers](#) | [Courses](#) | [Something Interesting](#)

New President's Comments



I would like to thank all those people who have once again volunteered to serve on the Committee for 2014-2015. A special "Thank You" goes to David Ashton for the excellent job he has done as President over the past twelve months. Most of the new committee have served in the previous year but we do have a rather unusual process in determining this governing committee. It is called an 'election' but is in fact reliant upon individuals indicating their willingness to take up a position. This method has obvious problems but I'll mention only one: in order for a person to relinquish a position there has been an expectation that the 'retiree'

find his/her replacement, often requiring considerable pressure and cajoling. And if no replacement is forthcoming the incumbent then feels honour-bound to again volunteer to serve. I am opposed to this procedure and would like members to give it some serious thought over the next twelve months.

As you can see the position of Vice-President is vacant. While that of VP is not immediately important there will be occasions when I will need to be covered and, ideally, the VP will take over from me next year. Please consider helping us out.

Bob James has done many years of great service in the role of Technical Officer and we can understand his wanting to have a break. Many, many thanks Bob. The Technical Officer position is really critical considering the various technologies we use and, as we have seen lately, things can and do go wrong. Thanks to Roger Curran for offering to undertake this role.

Change occurs naturally in any organisation. I know there have been comments about the increase in the Tuesday Forum levy and Membership fees. The \$3 levy on Tuesdays doesn't only cover morning tea; it also has to cover the hall hire and gifts for speakers, and costs are continually rising. While we have built up a significant reserve over the years there has been a need to draw on it for all of our increasing operating costs. But the immediate cost in the coming months is the purchase of a complete microphone/sound system to comply with new regulations re operating bandwidths coming into force in January 2015. This will mean a significant outlay, probably in the vicinity of \$2500-\$3000. So we need to build up our reserve again so future committees can purchase other items over the coming years. Keep in mind that the annual fee is the equivalent of just 50c a week and cannot be considered excessive considering what our U3A provides members.

Earlier in the year the Committee made the decision to publish our newsletter Term Paper online rather than a printed version. There are various reasons for this: costs involved in the printed version are creeping up and will continue to do so. Secondly, the job of editor has depended largely on just one person (with a little help from a couple of others). This is a very onerous task for one individual to take on. I would like to record our sincere appreciation to David Powell who has put an inordinate amount of time and effort into ensuring we received a quality publication each term. David has decided to call it a day and was the one who sees communication of our news, courses and speakers as being more efficiently done online. Thank you David.

As a consequence of the decision to go online we have now transferred a lot of responsibility to our amazing Web Manager, Denise Curran. She has single-handedly set up our website at www.bvu3a.org and maintains it. Quite rightly Denise does not see herself as the new editor of the newsletter; her role is simply to collect information from others and put it into a suitable form for viewing on the site. It is now up to everyone to make a contribution and she will indicate how this should be done. It will take time to get used to but this is the way of the future.

I look forward to working with everyone over the next twelve months and know we will have another enjoyable year. Thank you.

Des Wann

Some images from the AGM

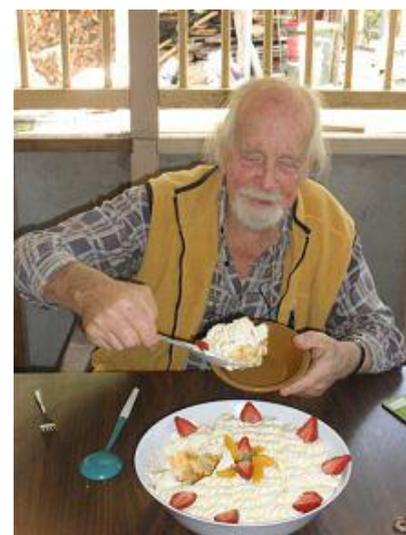


Men's Shed News

Our Men's Shed celebrated its first 90 year old member when Colin turned 90 last week.

Fit and strong Colin works each week in the Shed and has contributed several products including the development of bee hives for native bee keepers which differ from normal hives. He has made many in recent times with great success.

He was Editor of the Bangalow Times when we first formed this U3A and knowing we needed as much initial publicity as possible to



get it off the ground we sought his help along with the other news sheets in area. He willingly supported us and we find it quite appropriate that he is now our first U3A Shed 90 year old.

Ron Westrup

Budget Implications for Retiree Finances

By popular request there is to be follow-up to the recent meeting *Budget Implications for Pensioners and Aged Care*. *Budget Implications for Retiree Finances* will be held at the Ocean Shores Country Club on Wednesday 8 October at 9:45 for a 10am start.

Mark O'Dwyer from Centrelink spoke very knowledgeably about the impact of the budget changes, providing insights into how particular changes can work for the individual. Members of the audience asked him questions about the best way to manage their money to gain maximum benefit. He did not have time to respond at the last seminar - hence the follow-up.

For further information please refer to the Byron Shire website.

Moya Sayer-Jones



Local author, journalist and lecturer, Moya Sayer-Jones, inspired members with her talk on the *Power of Story* at Tuesday Forum on 9 September. As well as being informative about her own life Moya encouraged everyone to be an 'activist' in recording personal experiences. This they did with a lot of enthusiasm through both verbal and written communication.

[Moya's website](#) will tell you more about her work. [Her blog](#) provides a rich source of "insight, inspiration and idiocy".

[StoryCorps](#) is a website Moya highly recommended. StoryCorps is one of the largest oral history projects of its kind. Since 2003, more than 50,000 interviews from more than 80,000 participants, mainly Americans, have been collected and archived.

We thank Moya for a most enjoyable and motivating morning and we look forward to her return sometime in the near future.

Our Newest Author

Bev Sweeney, BVU3A member and beloved Thursday morning Shibashi instructor, is to become our newest author. That's Bev at right in the photo above, chatting to Moya Sayer-Jones.

Bev's book, *Pirouettes & Prayer*, will be launched at St Martin's Anglican Hall, Stuart Street, Mullumbimby, on Friday 19 September from 7 - 9pm. [Read more . . .](#)

Pirouettes & Prayer is a collection of Bev's beautiful, gentle poetry. You may remember her work from a Dangerously Poetic presentation for Tuesday Forum in the past.



Dangerously Poetic is a community group which encourages, publishes and promotes quality poetry from the Northern Rivers. Their mission is to use poetry to bring people together as community. "The words touch us in our tender places and remind us of our common humanity."

We congratulate Bev on the publication of her book and wish her well for the launch this Friday. All are welcome to attend this evening of poetry and music featuring Karl Farren.

Uke Bewdies

At Tuesday Forum on 16 September long term past BVU3A member Max Knott paid a visit with the Uke Bewdies, a group of ukelele and banjo players from the Ballina area. They played and sang many old and gold melodies for us to join in with. There was barely a foot in the room that wasn't tapping along.

Special mention must go to our own three tenors, Des Wann, David Ashton and Roger Curran who ably helped with the vocals.

After the meeting we adjourned to the Bruns Pub for lunch so that Max and Barbara could catch up with old friends and members could meet the members of Uke Bewdies.





Term 4 Tuesday Forum

October 14

The Great Debate. Roger Curran (Public Good) and David Powell (Private Benefit) bring their scintillating silky skills and observations to lead us into some animated discussion, so come with thinking caps on!

October 21

Barbara Pinter from Byron Breast Cancer Support will give updated information on trends with this disease. She will also talk about how the Support Group assists those who have or have had breast cancer and how survival rates have changed.

October 28

Leandro Mendes introduces the topic "Working Migrants and Refugees in Australia." Leandro has over eight years experience working with migrants and refugees. He has worked in Sydney and Darwin and currently is the migrant and refugee worker in the Northern Rivers. His experience gives him a unique understanding into the settlement process and the needs of those seeking a new life in a new land.

November 11

Michelle Walter and Neroli Jager will give us an insight into the Women's Resource Centre. Many women who seek support through this service have experienced domestic violence, depression, anxiety and stress. Appropriate psychological services enable women to get support quickly and without cost.

November 18

Anna Jones from Guide Dogs NSW/ACT will remind us of the important services provided by this

organisation. Remember, it's more than just dogs! Anna trained as a primary school teacher then completed a Masters in Special Education (specialising in Vision Impairment). She is an orientation and mobility instructor for those who are blind or vision impaired.

November 25

Victor Marsh is a local author. His latest book "The Boy in the Yellow Dress" is about his harrowing journey to discover his identity in a difficult world. An actor, writer and follower of a Guru, Victor brings his story to life with humour and style.

December 9

Hannah Kelly is a young woman who lives in Bangalow. She will tell us about her journey to help African kids through an organisation called Plaster House in the town of Arusha in Tanzania, a town where life consists of very basic needs. Having spent six months in a difficult and often dangerous location she says she'd go again in a heartbeat! A confronting, eye-opening story, but one of hope and how we can make a difference. Inspiring.

December 16

U3A Christmas lunch at the Ocean Shores Country Club. Book early and get into the spirit of Christmas. Great lunch, great company. A good way to end another successful U3A year.