

## **From the President**

Our final Tuesday excursion for 2017 was a trip to Ballina Manor on October 31st. The building's fascinating history was outlined to us by our hostess, Tracey, while we dined on scones, jam and cream. Starting life as a girls' school in the mid-1920s, it became a boarding house for teachers and nurses when the school folded in the depression. It remained a boarding house, while the building deteriorated, until the late 1990s when it was saved from demolition by being purchased with the intention of establishing a boutique hotel. The 'restoration' project, involving untold amounts of money, lifted the building way beyond its former status while preserving its appearance. Ballina Manor's website tells us: 'The Manor building is an important historic building, not only given its associated history as the Methodist Ladies College, but as a building it demonstrates aesthetic merit. Designed by architect Frederick J. Board, the building demonstrates features characteristic of his work. These include its predominate brick fabric, timber detailing and archway features.'



Thanks to the members who have supported our small program of outings this year. We would love to receive suggestions as to where we might head off to next year. Our focus this year has been on 'history and historic buildings' but we are open to your ideas. Preferably, our destinations should be less than an hour away and have refreshments available at reasonable cost to members.

### **Volunteer photographer**

Since our last newsletter, we have had a volunteer come forward and we will soon have some photographs to kick off our publicity campaign. Progress has been much slower than I would have liked but we now have some commitments that will enable us to have something published in the new year.

### **An extra Tuesday Forum**

The committee has extended our Tuesday Forum calendar until December 19 to shorten the Christmas break a little. U3A will recommence on February 13, 2018.

### **Courses for 2018**

We were very grateful to Ken Wood from Ballina U3A for bringing us his orchid growing course this year. What is in store for 2018? Well, we are looking for volunteers to coordinate new courses and activities next year. It used to be that our activities were assumed to be ongoing but a few years ago we tried to encourage members to contribute courses that would run for a limited period only, say a term or a half-term, to take away some of the fear of an endless commitment.

I will offer *The Brain Games Project* in first term. This is a course devised for U3A clubs which offers a lot of flexibility in the manner of its delivery. The important thing is: the presenter doesn't have to start from scratch. There are a number of resources listed on the U3A Network website for anyone looking for inspiration or assistance.

### **U3A Network NSW**

Brunswick Valley U3A is part of a worldwide U3A movement. There is a hierarchy stretching way above us but our club operates with almost complete autonomy. Nonetheless, there are resources available to us from our membership of a movement that goes way beyond our club. The next level up is the U3A Network NSW. Don't know much about them? Well, the network is trying to do something about that and has a revamped website and a new e-newsletter in an effort to get in touch with you and let you know what it is contributing to the development of U3A in Australia.

There are opportunities to develop new interests for those who want to become more active with U3A through involvement with the Network so have a look at [the newsletter](#) and go to their [website](#).

Roger Curran  
President

## **Tuesday Forum**

### **November 14 - Susan Wright**

Susan's obsession for beautiful textures and colours has been ingrained since birth. Her father was a passionate printer and founded the "The Byron News". Born in Paper. Over the past years Susan has created a business appropriately called *Born in Paper*. and runs workshops in a range of paper crafts and textiles.

### **November 21 - Steven and Ann Jones**

Steven and Ann will give us their perspective on Eastern Europe, following on from their travels in the area.

### **November 28 - Edwin Fabry**

Club member and Tuesday Forum regular Edwin will speak to us on a topic dear to his heart - *Love and the Spiritual Realm*.

### **December 12 - Des Wann**

By popular request, Des will return with another presentation on Phil Coulter. We enjoyed the original *Phil Coulter - An Irish Treasure* so much that Des has put together another delight for us: - *Phil Coulter - The Sequel*. We so appreciate the time and effort that Des puts in to educate and entertain us with his musical favourites. The number of members who come to listen attest to the quality of his work.

### **December 19 - Christmas concert**

We have stretched the term a little to bring our last meeting closer to Christmas. To celebrate, we will have a Christmas theme for this meeting - the annual seniors gala concert, followed by a special festive morning tea.

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## **Introducing Your Committee**

### **Denise Curran**

Denise has lived in the area for almost 14 years, having arrived on Christmas Day 2003.



Aside from a short period when the demands of her business prevented her from attending, Denise has been a member of Brunswick Valley U3A for most of those 14 years. Over that time she has led French, Cryptic Crossword and Blogging classes as well as participating in Shibashi, Writing for Posterity and Latin classes.

Denise believes that U3A plays several important roles in the community - educational, physical and social. Not only does U3A provide food for the mind but it also provide activities which keep us moving - qigong/shibashi and table tennis. The educational and physical are wrapped by the social. The cup of tea and chat that accompanies Tuesday Forum is a very important part of the week and the friendships that are formed at the various small groups are testament to the social role that U3A plays.

Neighbour Penny Fox dropped a U3A brochure into the Curran letterbox 14 years ago when she noticed new arrivals in the street while walking the dog. That simple act opened up new interests, new friendships and new experiences for newcomer Denise and made her transition to Ocean Shores very easy.