

From the President

Welcome back to a new year of activity with Brunswick Valley U3A. I hope all our members enjoyed the festive season and survived the rigours of summer without serious incident.

Most of our groups have already resumed and Tuesday Forum recommences tomorrow. Nothing to report from your committee, as yet, because we won't meet until early next month. The committee will be developing a promotional campaign to encourage wider participation in U3A from the community which, I hope, will broaden the range of activities we offer under our banner.

I also hope that some of our members will look to deepen their involvement with our club over the coming year and maybe aspire to the committee or to organising an activity group or to telling their own story at Tuesday Forum. If you have any plans or dreams which may lead you in this direction, let me know.

Roger Curran
President
12 February 2018

Learning about Growing Orchids

Ken Wood, a member of Ballina U3A and the Byron District Orchid Society is pleased to once again offer a course for our members who want to learn more about growing orchids. This follows his very successful workshops last year.

Once again there will be TWO sessions, going from 9 - 12:

1. On the second Saturday of the month at the home of Judy Williams - 12 Pandanus Court, Brunswick Heads - i.e. The first session - February 10
2. On the third Saturday of the month at the home of Nareda Price - 107 Station Street Mullumbimby - i.e. The first session February 17

We would prefer that you enrolled in the one of these that suits you but it's OK to swap if necessary. Just let us know.

You don't have to have attended the sessions in 2017 as Ken will be covering new material, so everyone is free to join us. Ken says that it will be a more hands on effort for everyone this year and members who bring an orchid for rehab need to be prepared to do the 'dirty work'.



Each session costs \$13. For this you will get;

1. Printed notes about the topics under discussion and lots of valuable information about orchids and their growing habits,
2. Morning tea,
3. A \$10 voucher that can be used to buy orchids or materials for growing orchids.

Ken wants to do some things differently this year:

1. It won't just be a repeat of last year. He wants us to find out which orchids flower at different times of the year and will structure each class to deal with one or more orchids that we can find in flower in the particular month.
2. He'd like us to bring along an orchid that we may have in flower, if possible, so that we can get some idea of what we may find if we are looking to buy something. This is an excellent way of sharing our knowledge.
3. Ditto if we have an orchid that needs attention. If you think the orchid possibly has an infection/virus etc it should be placed in a plastic bag, at least until Ken has a chance to look at it and give an opinion.
4. As indicated it will be a more hands on course this year and we will be doing things like making hanging baskets and repotting ourselves, not relying on him.
5. Ken has already organised another trip to Lyn and Bob Sullivan's extensive orchid collection, near Uki, on Wednesday April 18. Several of us attended last year and found it very interesting and an excellent place to buy new orchids.

Please email Penny Fox on panda.fox@bigpond.com to enrol if you wish to attend, or phone her on 02 6680 1600. Penny will need your name, email address and phone number as well as which day suits you best.

Tuesday Forum

Our thanks go to Dot Andrews for organising the Tuesday Forum speakers, and also to Des Wann for making sure all of their various technical requirements are met.

February 13 – Taya Prescott

Taya is a Health Literacy project officer with the Northern NSW Local Health District. She will speak to us on various matters concerning our health and the Government's health record.

February 20 – Ron Taylor

Ron will speak about his fascinating journey to the Galapagos Islands.

February 27 – John Zaat

John is returning to tell us more about the real story of the Sydney Opera House.

March 13 – Andrew Green

Vinnies – your questions answered – how it works, where the funds raised are spent etc.

March 20 – Games Morning

Many fun games to choose – puzzles, dominoes, snakes and ladders etc.

March 27 – Alan McClean

Communication developments over the past 30 years

April 10 – Rebecca Johnson

Rebecca will speak about a book she has written on kindness – a type of Pay it Forward.