



U3A Hume Newsletter December 2018



Christmas Greetings from the President

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Committee to wish you all the very best for a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year

Overall U3A Hume has had a good year with membership on the increase from 249 to 266 members in an environment where many other U3A's are struggling to maintain their membership.

Whilst it was good to have two new members (Harry Safstrom and Maria Malacria) join our Committee in August this year we are still looking for more "new blood" on the Committee. We would certainly welcome any member who may wish to come along initially as an observer with the possibility of joining the Committee in the future.

Our Strategic Planning initiative is progressing satisfactorily and early in the New Year we hope to be able to publish some definite action plans around recruiting Committee members, training Office Staff and developing a comprehensive new Marketing Plan.

In the meantime enjoy the Festive Season and come back fully refreshed and ready to continue learning and having fun at U3A Hume.

Geoff Mackay
President

Committee Members

Position	Name	Email
President	Geoff Mackay	president@humeu3a.org.au
Secretary	Harry Safstrom	secretary@humeu3a.org.au
Treasurer	Julie McPherson	treasurer@humeu3a.org.au
Social Secretary	Anne de Gabrielle	socialsec@humeu3a.org.au
Membership Officer	Fatima Felix	membership@humeu3a.org.au
Webmaster	Peter Lazarus	webmaster@humeu3a.org.au
Committee Member	Maria Malacria	

Ed note: *Thanks to Norma for suggesting the inclusion of our Committee and Office Bearers in our final 2018 Newsletter*

The History of Christmas Trees.

The evergreen fir tree has traditionally been used to celebrate winter festivals (pagan and Christian) for thousands of years. Pagans used branches of it to decorate their homes during the winter solstice, as it made them think of the spring to come.

Senior's Day at Lynda Blundell



The Senior's Day was a well attended event. Special thanks to Pracita, who stayed all day to assist, and to Lorraine Ievins, Margaret Allen and Anton for coming at lunch time. The help provided, by all, in packing up at the end of the day was greatly appreciated. To those who bought raffle books..... a big thankyou too.

Norma

Thanks to Norma Dugard for organising our attendance at the Hume City Council sponsored event..... *Peter Lazarus*

Life Story Writing Class

Don Fraser was born in the UK. He boarded at school, joined the UK army and attended the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, Royal Engineers. He received an engineering degree from Cambridge University, graduating in 1953. Don worked on engineering projects on most continents including Africa. He was involved in projects in Queensland and Sydney, and retired in Melbourne.

Don joined U3A Brisbane and attended a class called Life Story Writing. Participants in the class wrote short stories about aspects of their lives which they read out to the class. Don was asked to run the same type of class in U3A Hume, also titled 'Life Story Writing'. This class started in February 2016. Don's eyesight is now fading, and so he has decided to finish tutoring our Life Story Writing class. We thank you Don for your contribution to U3A Hume, and remember fondly your detailed stories about your life in the Army. Best wishes for the future, and may you continue writing 'Your Life Story'.

What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?
The Christmas alphabet has Noel.

Did you know that Santa's not allowed to go down chimneys this year?
It was declared unsafe by the Elf and Safety Commission.

What's the most popular Christmas carol in the desert?
Oh caamel ye faithful.



Re-enrolment process

Between 5th and 18th November, 69% of our paying members enrolled and paid their Membership for 2019. I would like to thank the members who attended the online and office training, those who helped or are scheduled to help in the office for the next two weeks, tutors and liaison persons who diligently distributed enrolment forms and collected them as well as those who enrolled online.

Fatima

Ed Note: *Reminder to all who may have recently missed classes and have not yet enrolled.*

Enrolments are still open. Email Fatima with any queries. membership@humeu3a.org.au

Remember to ask your tutors when classes resume in 2019. You can also check our website at humeu3a.org.au/members



The HUFF'N'PUFF group held a chicken and champagne (non alcoholic) morning tea for Melbourne Cup Day with a furlong of exercise to start the morning. The clerk of the course made it more than just a training run.

When the finishing line was crossed, all the colts and mares paraded in a circle for the judging of the fascinators. Each mare did a few circles in the centre, some really put in a great performance. It was a very

close race (the colts were scratched and relegated to judges). After viewing the photo, the colts declared Julie was the winner by a short half feather.

Robyn and Barry ran a Melbourne Cup sweep during the morning tea with a beautiful plate of delicious sandwiches and some lovely home made goodies. And champers of course. All starters were accepted and randomly drawn. The results were BARRY 1st. ROBYN 2nd and FAYE 3rd. place. All protests were dismissed, and stewards declared correct weight.

Ed Note: *A great read Barry. Thanks*



Walkaways members enjoyed a Christmas lunch at Skyways this week with plenty of food, stories, laughs and great companionship. It's the time of the year to reflect on the efforts of all who make this group work so well. To Maureen for her dedication to, and leadership of the group. We thank you. Thumbs up to Lorraine and Gloria who, with Maureen, set up this year's program. Thanks to Lorraine, who takes on a leadership role in Maureen's absence, and also to Gloria who provides us with the written word (dates and locations) so we know

where we are suppose to be each week. However, the piece de résistance each week, after a long walk, are the goodies coming from Betty's kitchen. On the rare occasion Betty is away there are definite withdrawal symptoms. You are a gem Betty. What joys can we expect in 2019?



Finally, a huge pat on the back for all the stalwarts who braved the wind and cold over Winter to continue walking while some of us were away in the sun.

Looking forward to another interesting year in '19 starting with a short walk and morning tea at Poyntons on January 31st. Yum.



Summer program

January 3rd 2019 Movies at Airport West 11.00am

Meet at Airport West Shopping Centre Food Court as usual

January 10th 2019 Morning Tea at Parliament House 10.00am Meet at Parliament Station at 9.30am to allow time for Security Checks before entry to Parliament House.

17th January 2019 10 Pin Bowling at Maribyrnong. Meet at 11.00am.

23rd of January 2019 Our Cruise starts. "Happy sailing.... bye"

cont'd:

★ **URGENT:** Payment for Evita must be finalised in the first week of December. \$70 First Dine Out for 2019 will be in February. Updates in newsletter in the New Year.

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The Magic Bank Account.

Imagine that you had won the following *PRIZE* in a contest:

Each morning your bank would deposit \$86,400 in your private account for your use.

However, this prize has certain rules.

1. Everything that you didn't spend during each day would be taken away from you.
2. You may not simply transfer money into some other account.
3. You may only spend it.
4. Each morning upon awakening, the bank opens your account with another \$86,400 for that day.
5. The bank can end the game without warning; at any time, it can say, "Game Over!" It can close the account and you will not receive a new one.

What would you personally do? You would buy anything and everything you wanted right? Not only for yourself, but for all the people you love and care for. Even for people you don't know because you couldn't possibly spend it all on yourself, right?

You would try to spend every penny and use it all because you knew it would be replenished in the morning, right?

ACTUALLY, This GAME is REAL... Shocked ??? YES!

Each of us is already a winner of this *PRIZE*. We just can't seem to see it.

The PRIZE is *TIME*....

1. Each morning we awaken to receive 86,400 seconds as a Gift of Life for that day...
 2. And when we go to sleep at night, any remaining time is NOT credited to us.
 3. What we haven't used up that day is forever lost.
 4. Yesterday is forever..... Gone.
 5. Each morning the account is refilled, but the bank can dissolve your account at any time WITHOUT WARNING.
- SO, what will YOU do with your 86,400 seconds?

Those seconds are worth so much more than the same amount in dollars. Think about it and remember to enjoy every second of your life, because time races by so much quicker than you might think.
(Yes, we senior citizens can certainly relate to that...)

So take care of yourself, be happy, love deeply and enjoy life! Here's wishing you a wonderful and beautiful day.

Start spending....

"DON'T COMPLAIN ABOUT GROWING OLD!"

Remember:

SOME PEOPLE DO NOT GET THAT PRIVILEGE!

Ed Note: *Author Unknown Thanks Fatima So true*

Following a brief stint in hospital we are glad to see Margaret Skellet return to Huff n Puff. Welcome back.



Everyone of us is an ornament on the Christmas Tree of Life.

The Committee of Hume U3A would like to thank Maria Vamvakinou MP and her staff for the printing of this newsletter.