



10 September 2017

Diary Dates

Members Day	5 October 2017	CWA Hall Church St Maitland
Christmas Party	13 December 2017	Billabongs Restaurant East Maitland Bowling Club

A.G.M

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 1st September



The Management Committee Members
(Kim, Fiona, Wendy, Peter M, Sue, Ian and Peter W)



Management Committee Members with VIP guests
Meryl Swanson MP - Federal Member for Hunter (left)
Jenny Aitchison MP – State Member for Hunter (right)

Foundation Chairperson Honoured

At the Maitland U3A Annual General Meeting our founding President was honoured for inspiration, vision and commitment to establish a U3A in Maitland NSW. Over 5 years ago Wendy was on a Mekong River Cruise and was inspired by a group of enthusiastic travellers on board who were members of another U3A group. Back Home Wendy set to work and organised a public meeting.

Over 80 people turned up to this meeting and so the seeds were planted and our growth started. Wendy gathered together a steering committee from the public meeting, work began. Wendy led an enthusiastic group of people and in January 2013, launched by our local City Mayor Maitland U3A began with just over 100 members. Wendy has led us as President for the next 3 years and growth continues.

Our past present and future membership are so grateful for Wendy's' inspiration and continuing support she was recognised and presented with LIFE MEMBERSHIP of Maitland U3A in recognition of her tireless efforts.



Laurene Mulcahy (U3A Regional Representative) with Wendy

Bus Trip to Gloucester

Tuesday 10th October 2017

Bus departs Maitland Station at 8.45am

returns approximately 3.30pm

Cost \$54.00pp includes morning tea at Stroud.

BBQ lunch at Gloucester

We journey to historic Stroud for morning tea at the Crepe Myrtle café. We then continue our journey to Gloucester where a local guide from the historical society will board our coach and give us a guided tour as we explore this beautiful area. We will then stop for BBQ lunch and meet our friends from Gloucester U3A. We then have a guided tour of the Gloucester historical museum before returning home.

The application form can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

Cruise Information Session

CRUISE INFORMATION SESSION

WEDNESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 10.00AM
REP THEATRE

John Thacker and Gloria from Newcastle U3A will conduct an information session on
ONSHORE EXCURSIONS

This will be of interest to those booked on the New Zealand Cruise in November however is open to all those who are thinking of cruising in the future, family and friends welcome.

Hunter Writers' Centre Grieve Project Volume 5

The Hunter Writers' Centre has just launched their latest anthology of prizewinning stories and poems from this year's Grieve project. This is a national competition which attracts hundreds of entries. Organisations who provide palliative care and grief counselling sponsor the competition and the anthology is launched during Grief Awareness month.

The anthology is \$25 plus postage and can be ordered from the Hunter Writers Centre website. A Grieve e-book which will contain the short-listed stories and poems as well as an additional 40 entries will be available soon.

Congratulations to Fiona Abbey, the leader of 'Writing for Pleasure (2)', who is one of the shortlisted authors whose stories and poems are published in this anthology.

Brenda Proudfoot

'Writing for Pleasure' (1) leader

Trivia Day

This one is Wednesday 27th September at CWA Hall. Admission fee is \$2 per person, which goes into prize pool. You can bring a friend who is not U3A member if you want. Don't need to be on a table we will organise that but if you have a table of friends that's fine. Light refreshments. 10 am to 1 pm.

Must RSVP to Wendy by 20th Sept on 4930 6972 as it won't go ahead unless we have the numbers.

Invite your friends to join Maitland U3A. Send them this newsletter! You can also access the newsletter from our U3A website <http://u3amaitland.org.au> To contact U3A Maitland you can -

Write to the Secretary of Maitland U3A PO Box 502, MAITLAND 2320
OR Call Fiona our President on 0404 463 993

Choir Group

Meets Tuesday 1.00 -2.00pm

Have fun and improve your vocal chords. We have vacancies for Term 4. The group is led by Maree Farrelly. If you are interested please phone Wendy 4930 6972.

Writing for Pleasure Corner

At what stage am I? by Lyn Dark

Scurrying through the carpark I notice a thick matting of leaves lying at the base of an old tree. With the onset of the autumn cold they've been discarded by their deciduous host and parachute unceremoniously to the ground. As a gentle breeze blew a cluster of these leaves in my direction I watched as they swirled around my feet. On closer observation I realised that all the leaves were at different stages of their dying process. Some were still a beautiful glossy deep green; they had only just been shed. Their supple stems had been acting as an umbilical cord transferring nourishment from the tree, this cord now severed, releasing the baby from its' mother. Other leaves had only a tinge of brown on the edge. One leaf was a mottled brown with the crisp parched rim curling back onto itself, it made the ideal place for a tiny black garden spider to spin a web inside and call it home. Then there were the leaves that were completely brown, their life ended. They lay decaying on the cold wet ground, each leaf now offering up their final benefit to this earth, becoming compost, to feed the tree from which they fell. After a season of filtering and recycling carbon dioxide into oxygen their lifecycle was over.

Climbing into the warmth of my car, I turn the heater on full blast blocking out the chill of the wind. As I pull out from the carpark I notice that one solitary leaf had fallen onto my windscreen. It was stuck to the glass by the moisture from a drizzle of earlier rain. As the car gradually picked up speed I watched the leaf start to flicker, holding on as tight as the dampness would allow. The leaf was now crinkled and brown. I looked closer at the leaf and noticed there were tinges of green speckled on its' body; it was a dull green, not nice and glossy like it would have been. Its tiny veins are still visible but now, much needed fluids no longer pulsates through them. I began to question at what stage am I in my life? I know I am way beyond my supple, luscious green phase and even past the half way stage. Do I only have a quarter of my life left or am I past that? Do I only have a little green still around the edges?

My grandchildren like the new shoots of the spring leaves, will continue the cycle of life. As the car picked up pace the leaf fluttered more and more, slowly sliding across the glass. It almost resembled an octopus casting its tentacles forward, looking for another damp patch to anchor onto. Finally it could hold on no more and had to release its grip on the windscreen. In the side mirror I watched as it fell onto the road, its life now over.

Writing for Pleasure Corner

Mick by Josephine Thelander

He was almost an institution in the street. His weather beaten face blended with the red brick of the dilapidated house and his faded hand knitted grey socks were almost indistinguishable from the old boards of the verandah. In the summer he sat out in the mornings away from the early sun, in the winter he sat there in the afternoons, allowing the westering sun to warm his old joints.

Almost everyone who passed on foot or on bicycle stopped to chat. Football or cricket results, amusing anecdotes from his hard life in the New England Tablelands and occasionally and without venom the state of the nation. In summer, he warned everyone about the red-belly black or worse brown snakes he had seen that morning or in the previous afternoon, little caring that the cheese he kept on hand to feed to the magpies and smaller birds might ensure that there was plenty of live food for the slithering creatures.

There was rarely any judgement of others – he had a tolerant, light hearted approach to the vagaries of people and life in general. We all loved him.

One day a newcomer appeared on the scene. I was sitting in the flash new chair his granddaughter had bought him for Christmas while he sat next to me in his shabby old wicker chair that he could easily lever himself out of. We were chatting about the drought and the terrible heat, comparing it to ones of decades ago and how at least we all had electricity these days for fans when he suddenly stopped the story and muttered Good Gracious me I've never seen the like. Mark you, it'll end in tears.

Across the road a lycra-clad, very yummy-mummy, pony tail bouncing with each step, was jogging along pushing with one hand one of those three wheeled push carts, with a very small baby strapped inside, head lolling to one side covered by a light muslin cloth, whether to keep the dust, insects or light out it wasn't clear. In her other hand was a carefully held my-phone, connected to her ears so that any awareness she may have had as to her surrounds or her baby's needs was deeply compromised.

What was clear was that she was going too fast for the bub to be able to see anything, no chance to learn about plants, fences, birds, insects or puppies which might entrance a litty. No communication between the two was possible.

Even as he said it, she came up to a drive-way that was not sealed in any way. Her foot rolled on a stone, she staggered, tried to rebalance, but was unable to recover. Down she went, mobile phone flying and taking the baby with her. I'm sure the wails could have been heard in Cessnock.

"Told you so", he pronounced shaking his head when I returned from coming to her aid. "Trouble is, she'll find someone else to blame. Ah well it'll help my next dividend from Telstra. Now what was I saying?"

Turning Back Time

The advertisement features a yellow background with white diagonal stripes. At the top left is the Quinn's logo, a stylized red 'Q' with the text 'Quinn's ON MELBOURNE ST'. To the right, the service hours are listed: 'TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 10.00AM - 2.00PM AND THURSDAY'S AS WELL!'. The main title 'Old Fashion Driveway Service' is written in a large, white, cursive font. Below the title is a red vintage car. In the bottom left, a cartoon illustration shows a mechanic in an orange jumpsuit and cap standing next to a red fuel pump. A Facebook logo is positioned to the right of the mechanic. At the bottom center, the 'Mai-Wel LabourForceSolutions' logo is displayed with the tagline 'Vibrant • Focused • Ready' and a circular graphic. Below this, the text reads 'QUINN'S SERVICE STATION', '39 MELBOURNE STREET, EAST MAITLAND', and '49343477'.

This service station is giving driveway service Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 10am and 2pm. Their prices are better for petrol than most. You can also have your tyres, radiator etc. done as well.

39 Melbourne Street, East Maitland 4943 3477



Square box, round pizza,
triangle slices.



...I'M
CONFUSED!



MAITLAND UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



BUS TRIP TO GLOUCESTER

TUESDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2017

BUS DEPARTS MAITLAND STATION 8.45AM

RETURNS APPROX 3.30PM

COST \$54.00pp INCLS Morning Tea at Stroud.

BBQ LUNCH AT GLOUCESTER

WE JOURNEY TO HISTORIC STROUD FOR MORNING TEA AT THE CREPE MYRTLE CAFÉ. WE THEN CONTINUE OUR JOURNEY TO GLOUCESTER WHERE A LOCAL GUIDE FROM THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL BOARD OUR COACH AND GIVE US A GUIDED TOUR AS WE EXPLORE THIS BEAUTIFUL AREA. WE WILL THEN STOP FOR BBQ LUNCH AND MEET OUR FRIENDS FROM GLOUCESTER U3A. WE THEN HAVE A GUIDED TOUR OF THE GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM BEFORE RETURNING HOME.



GLOUCESTER BUS TRIP

REGISTRATION :

MEMBERS

NAME:.....

Badge No.....

EMAIL ADDRESS.....

POSTAL ADDRESS: only if no email

.....

.....

PHONE CONTACT NO.....

PLEASE NOTE ANY SPECIAL DIETARY

REQUIREMENTS.....

.....

Payments to Maitland Mutual Building Society

Deposit to Maitland U3A BSB 646000

A/C 10061759

ALL PAYMENT DUE 28TH SEPT

.Registration form to be sent to Maitland U3A P.O. Box 502
Maitland 2303 or scan to peterwe44@hotmail.com.