

Coffs Harbour U3A

2020 into 2021- Bulletin No.2 (3/12/2020)

An ongoing message...

Topics: **1. Course Selections** **2. Covid-safe agreement** **3. Membership** **4. Enrolment Day**
5. How Can I Help?

Course Selections

Hopefully you have been able to take a look at the courses for 2021 which can now be viewed on the website, <https://coffs.u3anet.org.au/> (Just for this last week of 2020, some of this year's classes are mixed in with next year's- they will 'disappear' as this Term ends).

Some things to note:

- There are some courses which are going to be held **online' via "Zoom"**. Some of these are "online" until a return to regular rooms and rules is possible. One of the Zoom courses is only going to be available on Zoom!

- We have just **35 classes** which is down on recent years. Tutors, indeed all members, will make their own decisions about when they will return, and others must respect that. Only courses which have a definitive start date have been listed. The committee rejected at its last meeting the listing of any courses without definite start dates. In any case, such 'dateless' courses cannot be listed in the system, and if "fake" start dates are created, this can only create confusion for members if the course doesn't happen, not to mention administrative difficulties for tutors and managers alike.

- Outdoors classes, or larger indoor spaces, may have up to 20 enrolled. Indoors in smaller rooms will have fewer. In every case these limits on numbers are legal **maximums** and **may not** be exceeded. Infringements can attract large \$ penalties which are applied to every person present! Ouch\$\$\$! So we cannot just add that extra person to a class, nor can members just turn up to "try it out".

- These numbers and limits have real consequences for our enrolment process, and will affect most of us – it will require thoughtful behaviour on everyone's part. Because of these ceilings, we have a **fixed upper limit to the total number of members doing our courses**. If the rules are eased, class limits may be able to increase.

- Members must carefully consider their choices, and from January 13th enrol in as few as possible, and be certain you want to join the class and stick with it. It will not be acceptable for anyone to just pick as many courses as they wish, and decide later whether to attend or not. A member being in two classes may mean that another member misses out altogether. We need to be as considerate as possible- our decisions are going to impact others, and "others" may be you. (The committee has considered several ways that such outcomes might be avoided. It may be necessary to intervene but at the start we will be at the "advice" level, hoping we don't need to escalate to "watch and act", or worse.)

- Optimistically, our hope is that the situation improves over the course of 2021. If that happens, the current plan is that we will introduce other classes from the start of the next term. This will make their promotion/advertising more orderly, as well as providing time to organise venues, and for members to enrol, ready to start day one. If anyone is considering running a course in addition to those on offer, they should let us know "well ahead". The process is not instantaneous.

Pessimistically, an outbreak somewhere could catapult us back to where we were earlier this year.

Covid-safe Agreement

As part of our limited return to class in Term 3, 2020, class members wishing to attend had to indicate to their tutor their willingness to cooperate with prescribed changes, including: preventative 'stop-the-spread' measures; participation in various specified cleaning arrangements (vary slightly from venue to venue); observe distancing if queuing, moving about, mingling when arriving, during, or leaving class. The committee was very pleased at the unanimous acceptance of these conditions, as were the venue managers. Well done. These conditions have not changed, and **all class**

members will need to make a similar commitment in 2021. To this end all participants in 2021 will need to sign a Covid Safe Agreement – go to the website, *Governance / Constitution* tab and scroll down to *Policies* to view this agreement. (More about this in January).

Membership

Membership for 2021 may be applied for, and paid for, from next Monday, 7th Dec 2020. As previously mentioned, new memberships will remain at \$75, while members renewing their membership will pay the reduced fee of \$40.

If paying by card, do read through the **Fee Paying Guide** on the Membership page before proceeding, - in **step 4** of this guide you will notice the wording has changed for the checkbox you have to click, and be certain to follow **step 11**. I have no way to check this is all still current till I pay my own fees next week. I will give any update advice via the Membership page by mid next week!

But be assured that the online payment process is extremely secure and reliable but follow the Guide.

Alternatively, you can always pay by Cheque mailed to The Treasurer, P.O. Box 1596, Coffs Harbour. Do include your Name and Member Number, and state that you wish to join (\$75), or renew(\$40) for 2021 your membership of, Coffs Harbour U3A.

Please do not leave this till the last minute. Applying for membership a day or so before enrolments open on the 13th January and expecting any issue to be addressed urgently by us at that 'last minute' is unreasonable, and impossible if there are multiple such requests.

If you are helping a fellow member pay their membership online, remember you will need to log-in to that member's page with their member number and password. If they do not have an email address registered they will (most likely) not have a password. Do contact admin@coffs.u3anet.org.au for assistance in such a case.

Enrolment Day Wed Jan13th

In previous years Enrolment Day has been a major event for the Tutors, Committee and members. However this time around, such a gathering will not be possible. Instead we will have a much reduced and Covid-safe operation at Cavanbah Hall on this date. To avoid any crowding at the entrance, we are going to ask members needing to attend to book ahead- to ring up and reserve a time when you can attend (more information in January). Arrive with your payment and your choice of class for enrolment, sanitise your hands, and you will be checked-in (and if necessary, asked to sit and wait till called). New members who have not already applied online will need to complete an enrolment form.

Once called, there will be just two tasks:

1. Go to the Treasurer's table and pay your membership fee – cheque or cash only (\$75 for new members/ \$40 for renewing members), and collect your receipt..
2. Go to one of the Computer tables, complete your 2021 membership and enrolment in the course(s?) of your choice.

There will be no tutors present to talk to – we cannot run a large gathering indoors where people are wandering around from point to point, gathering around signs, etc.

Where possible, members are strongly advised to complete their own payment and course selection on-line, via the website, or if that is difficult, find a friend with a computer or a device who can help you complete the task. Or get in touch by email to admin@coffs.u3anet.org.au

When those two tasks are complete, you will need to leave. This is not the way we prefer to organise such a significant event in our calendar, but we do not have many options.

How Can I Help?

There are several mentions above where members might seek the help of those with a bit more expertise eg computer skills. You could be that person for someone who you know, or who lives close by, etc who falls into that category.

The course selection procedures- this is a perfect time to look to make others' U3A time more enjoyable. Think carefully about the courses you'd like to choose.

Email to: admin@coffs.u3anet.org.au