

Coffs Harbour U3A
Coffs U3A 2021- Bulletin No.4 (22/1/2021)

Topics: **1. Many to Thank** **2. Enrolments Still Tight** **3. Some Money Issues** **4. Tutors Day**

Many to Thank

In the weeks leading up to Enrolment Day, the committee had concerns that the reduced number of courses and lower limits on class sizes could have had a paralysing effect on enrolments overall, and we asked members to show restraint in their course selections, to keep their selections to as small a number as possible. The membership is to be congratulated for their response – about half of all members selected just one course, and a massive 80% of participating members just one or two courses. The easing this gave to the enrolment process was felt by everyone. Many thanks are due to the many of you who showed this restraint, and gave a thought to fellow members.

That is not to say everyone was followed around by their guardian angels ensuring their path was clear. There remain members out on a limb, and their plight will be addressed in the next section.

And having raised the subject of guardian angels, let's go there. Always worth a look. Another request of members was to look out for those who may need help, that Enrolment Day 2021 could not offer the information, the tutors, and all such assistance to those members who rely on face-to-face help.

I did not keep score. nor did the other committee members, but the number of members who got in touch to get advice on membership numbers, passwords!, and "how do I do this" in order to assist another member organise membership, pay online, and select subjects was quite out of the ordinary. We can only stand back and applaud all involved in the process, both the 'do'ers and the recipients.

In its turn, our Enrolment Day at Cavanbah was able to proceed smoothly with manageable numbers booking in.

Enrolments Still Tight

There is always a 'but'!

But, problems persist in getting members into courses despite the restraint shown by many, as mentioned above. WaitLists started to appear early in the process, and grew larger, quickly. Some relief was found for some activities in larger venues, where class sizes could be lifted, and the tutor was willing to work with the larger number. But that process has only taken us so far.

If we could find (or, Pied Piper style, they just stepped forward) additional tutors/ leaders to take a second group for bush-walking, or for Bend It, Balance and Bones (subject to finding a suitable venue and time) for example, this would alleviate the pressure that two long waitlists cause. Anyone?

We would love to find an equitable way for ensuring the places which might arise in any of the WaitListed courses are applied. If you find yourself already in one (or two !) such courses, do consider taking yourself off the waitlist for any additional course. If you are already in two (or three?) such courses, do let the tutor know if you are willing to relinquish your place in one of them. Those two processes together should see places go to those who are waiting for just one such course.

In the meantime we will continue to monitor the problem. And there will inevitably be some opportunities arise as classes get underway, when some members realise that a course is not for them.

Some Money Issues

Those who manage our online membership system, and those of a host of other U3As, have been hard at work trying to accommodate the many requests these U3As had made in order to work something for their 2020 members deprived of so much with last year's shutdowns. Some of the

changes caught us by surprise, and a number of members were billed incorrectly, particularly if they paid around New Year. We are getting to you (slowly).

But others, all new members, show a \$35 refund as being due to them. This is definitely a computer glitch, outside of our control, and is not correct.

Tutors' Meeting

A quick reminder to our valued and hard working tutors – we have a meeting scheduled for next **Wednesday, 27th January, in Cavanbah AB, 9.30am to 11.30am.**

There is much to organise for this second opening for courses under the COVID19 umbrella, with many changes to the way we must operate. These will affect everyone, and we ask that every Tutor make every effort to be there. Reply to info@coffs.u3anet.org.au if you have any problem with attending.

If that email fails?? SMS me on 0423 744 643

Regards to all,

admin@coffs.u3anet.org.au