

Coffs Harbour U3A
Coffs U3A 2021- Bulletin No.5 (30/1/2021)

Topics: **Return to classes 2021 – Welcome – Impacts of Covid19 - Absences**

Welcome Back!

We are all looking forward to this long-awaited return to U3A activities, which will get underway from tomorrow, Monday (1/2/21). While we are going to be missing a few of our favourite courses, most others have got a start in 2021 and we can all be pleased about that.

Make sure you check the **Courses** page of the website to ensure you have the correct date, time, and venue for each of the courses you have been accepted into. Some of these details have changed since courses were first listed.

In every course, your first class back will involve quite a bit of organisation on the part of everyone, particularly your tutors (who again we must all thank). Do be tolerant of this. We are a large organisation, spread far and wide, and rely on those tutors to not only provide you with these opportunities, but also to carry through with so much of the organising that keeps your courses running. Be there for them, to work with them and others and to enjoy the friendship and good company of the class.

'COVID-19' Continues to Impact on us...

There are going to be noticeable changes though. Some members, lucky enough to have restarted late last year, will be aware of some of these.

Every class and activity will operate under the current regulations, which bind each of our venues and each of us individually, to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Attached to this email is the **CH U3A COVID-Safe Agreement**. In a single page, it describes the behaviour that is expected of all members participating in our activities.

The full document is attached to this email, and is available on the Coffs Harbour U3A website www.coffs.u3anet.org.au - follow the menu to *Governance / Constitution*.

It should be read by all. Your tutors will be asking you to indicate your agreement with its content. You may certainly print off your own copy, but your acceptance will be acknowledged more simply in class. Classes cannot operate unless members accept these guidelines. These requirements are imposed on us. If any member cannot accept them, then, sadly, they will need to find their own, alternative activity outside this U3A.

You will be aware of contact tracing with Covid-19. For our part we must ensure we have your correct contact details. We will be asking you to check these.

In most venues seating and furniture generally will need to be arranged in a particular way to keep everyone spaced and allow movement. Assist your tutor by not rearranging.

Absent?

One simple task, often overlooked, is to consider your place in any class as a privilege, and to advise the tutor if you cannot attend. This courtesy is often overlooked.

Are you going to be absent? Let your tutor know in advance by using the **Apologise** process on your log-in. First, just enter the start and end dates in the two boxes provided, then press **Apologise**. Your absence is noted in the roll.

Unable to get online to 'Apologise'? Let your tutor know – eg SMS or email. (A phone call is easily forgotten if tutor is busy).

Absent for two lessons, no apology or explanation? Expect to be asked why, and/or asked if you want to continue in the class!

And, if you wish to withdraw from a class, do follow the withdrawal process (via your log-in and Classes 2021 button), **and** let the tutor know. Please do not just fail to turn up!

Finally

Give our venue operators no reason to question our being in their facility. Stay within their rules (and our rules) at all times. That casual chat outside at break-time when you and a friend stand close and talk, can give rise to complaint from a venue. And they are within their rights. You will have heard of the quite heavy fines imposed on venues and institutions when breaches have occurred. No-one can afford that. And suitable hired venues are hard to find – we cannot afford to lose any through just being unaware or too casual. And nor do we wish to jeopardise the goodwill that has developed between our U3A and those vital friends. So always keep yourself aware of what you are doing; habits of a lifetime can be difficult to break, but we must try to change sometimes.

Let's hope that 2021 is a brighter time in our lives than was 2020.

Best wishes to all, and enjoy the 'return'.

On behalf of the committee,

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